

## 2020 British Literature Exam

### Short Answer/Analysis

30%

Answer **two** of the following questions. Answers should be 1-2 paragraphs (about half a page per question). Remember to use MLA in text references for any secondary material you use, as well as for the primary texts themselves. Please also include a Works Cited at the end of this section.

1. Explain what Romanticism means, and back up your claims with examples from texts on the syllabus.
2. Who is the most interesting character in *Othello*, and why? Make sure you include a quotation by or about them.
3. What was your favourite sonnet on the syllabus? Comment on aspects of its style, form and content. (Style means 'literary techniques', form means 'what kind of poem is it?', and content 'means what is it about?')

### Essay (70%)

Make sure your essay has an introduction (including a thesis statement), a body and a conclusion, uses MLA in text references, and has a Works Cited. There is no set length for the essay, but make sure it is a complete essay that makes an argument. Around five paragraphs is ok, but it can be longer. Quality is more important than quantity. All sources that you quote or use ideas from **MUST** be cited. Quality sources such as the *Norton Anthology* are best. Articles from newspapers and library websites are better than Wikipedia or websites aimed at literature students. The most important thing is that you cite everything you use, to avoid plagiarism.

Answer **one** of the following questions:

1. Why are parties or social gatherings often significant in Modernist literature? Discuss in reference to **one or more** of the following texts: *Mrs Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf, "The Garden Party" by Katherine Mansfield, and "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T. S. Eliot.
2. "My father still reads the dictionary every day. He says your life depends on your power to master words."  
How does Tony Harrison's poem "V" interrogate the power – and the powerlessness – of words? Quote specific passages from the poem (available on Canvas) to back up your arguments. (In the Works Cited just write the author's name, the poem's title, Canvas Room British Literature, 2020.)
3. In "A Modest Proposal", Jonathan Swift writes though a "persona". Why does he do this? What do we know about the "character" or "persona" proposing these solutions? Can we trust him? What effect does the persona have on the other techniques used in the essay? Use quotations from the essay to back up your arguments. Remember to include a thesis statement that clearly states your main argument (and isn't a question).