

## Midterm Exam: 2016-2017

English 4 / Mr. Neff

This exam consists of **50** multiple choice sections followed by **two** essays from a choice of four.

### Terms to know:

You'll need to know and apply the following devices and terms throughout the test, including some of the essays

#### Literary devices

- analogy
- antithesis
- aside
- deus ex machina
- figurative language
- foil
- metaphor
- motif
- oxymoron
- paradox
- personification
- simile
- soliloquy

#### Satirical devices

- situational irony
- exaggeration
- comic juxtaposition
- parody
- grotesque humor

#### Schools of literary criticism (literary lenses):

- Historical lens, Feminist lens, Psychological lens, Marxist lens, Archetypal lens, Formalist lens

### Passage #1:

You'll read a one page excerpt from an article about the lure of fairy tales

- You'll answer some basic reading comprehension questions (e.g. main idea; vocab in context)
- You'll identify literary device(s) used in the passage
- You'll identify what type of critical lens an author uses. To do this, know what the literary lenses look for in a work

### ***Aldous Huxley's Brave New World***

#### Match the character with his/her description.

- Popé, Helmholtz, John, Mustapha Mond, Tomakin, Lenina, Linda, Bernard, Shakespeare, and Huxley

#### Multiple Choice

Know major plot events, characterization, and dystopian characteristics of the novel. For example:

- What are some of the scientific and psychological processes used by the World State to engineer their population?
- Describe Bernard Marx. How does he change over the course of the novel?
- What characteristics of the World State mark it as a dystopia? A utopia?
- In what ways are the World State citizens conditioned?
- What happens during a Solidarity Service? What's the purpose of the Service for the State?
- Who do the Staters worship as a god?

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## Passage #2:

You'll read a ½ page excerpt from *Brave New World*

- You'll answer some basic reading comprehension questions
- You'll answer some questions that ask you to connect what you know about *BNW* characters to what happens in this excerpt
- Make sure you know the basic origins of the novel's title

## Passage #3:

You'll read a ½ page excerpt from *The Onion*, a satirical news site

- Make sure you know the satirical techniques mentioned at the beginning of this review sheet and can recognize them in a reading passage

## Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

### Passage #4:

You'll read one of *Hamlet's* soliloquies

- Be able to recognize literary devices at work in the soliloquy
- Be able to read and interpret Shakespeare's language
- Be able to recognize which motifs from the play are at work in this soliloquy (some examples: appearance vs. reality; spying and manipulation; disease and corruption; death and mortality; madness vs. sanity)

### True or False

Read the statement and identify it as either **(A) True** or **(B) False**. Be mindful of specific mentions of plot events, characterization, etc.

- Review the major events of Acts III, IV, and V, especially those we discussed in class and/or mentioned on our list of focus questions. For example:
- Who killed King Hamlet? What do we know about the details, and from whom did we get them?
- How do Hamlet's actions in seeking vengeance work to bring about his own end? Consider the "butterfly effect" of his actions.
- What goes down in the final duel? (it's a chaotic scene, so take stock of everything that happens)
- What characters in the play serve as character foils to Hamlet?

### Quote Matching

Be able to match the quote to the character who said it. Know the following characters:

- Hamlet, Horatio, Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius, Ophelia, Laertes

Quotes will come from Acts II through V. For example:

- Alas, how is 't with you, / That you do bend your eye on vacancy / And with th' incorporal air do hold discourse?
- How came he dead? I'll not be juggled with. / ...Let come what comes, only I'll be revenged / Most thoroughly for my father.
- My words fly up, my thoughts remain below. / Words without thoughts never to heaven go.

## Essays

### **READ THESE DIRECTIONS SO YOU DON'T MESS THIS PART UP.**

- You will be writing TWO essays total. Each response is worth 25 points.
- In writing each essay, follow any directions and guidance provided in that specific prompt as far as writing style and length are concerned, and consult the rubrics at the end of this exam.

### **Prompt #1: Personal Narrative**

The following prompts were identified as some of the most creative college app prompts of 2015. Choose one and write a personal narrative in response to it. Regardless of which prompt you choose, **your response should be approximately 350-500 words (about 1 page).**

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When writing, consider what you learned about the style of a personal narrative while writing your College Essay, reading any samples or those your peers wrote, or learning any of the writing tips we discussed and tried along the way. Be sure to also use your skills to craft an engaging story (e.g. attention-grabbing opening lines; use of descriptive showing/evoking versus solely telling/informing; use of anecdotes, imagery, specific details, etc.).

### **Prompt 1A:**

Teen activist and 2014 Nobel Peace prize winner Malala Yousafzai said, "I raise up my voice — not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard." For whom have you raised your voice?

OR

### **Prompt 1B:**

You get one do-over of any moment in your life. What would you do over, and why?

OR

### **Prompt 1C:**

Identify a recent Facebook post, Tweet, text, Instagram photo, Snap (etc.) of yours. What does it reveal about you and your digital footprint?

### **Prompt #2: *Brave New World* Satirical Analysis**

Isaac Asimov, one of the most prolific and beloved SF writers, claimed that "modern science fiction is the only form of literature that consistently considers the nature of the changes that face us." In considering these changes in our society, science fiction writers often employ the tools of satire: they critique what they see as flaws in their society, while also expressing their hopes and fears for its future.

### **Prompt:**

What warnings did Aldous Huxley make about where his society was headed? In an organized essay of approximately 350-500 words:

- Identify at least two significant warnings or predictions Huxley makes about his society in *Brave New World*
- Cite a specific example of each warning/prediction as it occurs in the novel (consider characters, events, dialogue, etc.)
- Explain how Huxley creates this warning: what satirical techniques does he use?
- Finally, put yourself in conversation with Huxley by advancing, complicating, or disputing his warnings: did they come true or not? Explain.

Avoid plot summary unless you connect it to your analysis.

### **Prompt #3: *Hamlet* Argumentative Essay**

From Disney's *The Lion King* to the tv series *Sons of Anarchy* to the iphone game *To Be or Not To Be* (*Hamlet* retold in choose your own adventure style: check the app store), Shakespeare's *Hamlet* might be the most famous play in literary history. But is it deserving of such a title? Do we see the play mirrored in these modern mediums because today's writers believe in the story's timelessness, or are they simply revising the Bard's most famous work because it's in dire need of an update?

### **Prompt:**

Is *Hamlet* still relevant for modern audiences? Present an argument in favor of *or* against the play's relevance in 2017.

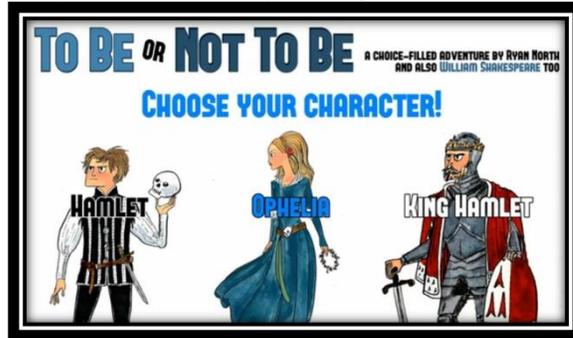
In an organized argumentative essay of approximately 350-500 words:

- Present your argument in favor of or against the play's relevance in the present day
- Support your argument with specific examples (including but not limited to the play's characters, situations, themes, language, and your own personal connections)
- Explain how each example supports your argument

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Avoid plot summary unless you connect it to your argument.



## **Prompt #4: Literary Lens Analysis**

Literary lenses (schools of literary theory) give you a focus for interpreting any work of art or media, be it literature, film, music, fairy tales—the list goes on.

### **Prompt:**

In an organized essay of approximately 350-500 words, choose one of the literary lenses (e.g. Archetypal, Feminist, Formalist, Historical, or Marxist lens), and use it to analyze one of the works listed below.

In your analysis essay:

- Begin with a thesis statement that presents the lens's overall interpretation of the work
- Support your thesis with specific examples from the work (e.g. characters, events, motifs, etc.).
- Explain how your lens interprets these specific events and examples

Avoid plot summary unless you connect it to your analysis.

### **Novels, Plays, and Short Stories to Choose From**

**(NOTE: If you responded to prompt #2 or #3, you may NOT use that same text here)**

- Any of the fairy tales from our group projects (e.g. Little Red, Cinderella, Mulan, Sleeping Beauty, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Robin Hood, etc.)
- "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"
- "Harrison Bergeron"
- "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"
- *Brave New World*
- *Hamlet*

### **Rubric: Prompt #1 ONLY (Personal Narrative)**

#### **A "4" response (Advanced) = 25 points**

- Writer provides a clear, focused answer to the prompt and
- illustrates this answer by effectively communicating a variety of strong, relevant examples (using both "showing/evoking" and "telling/informing").
- Writer's response contains an engaging opening and a thoughtful closing.
- Response contains no or minimal grammatical errors that do not detract from written voice.

#### **A "3" response (Proficient) = 20 points**

- Writer provides a clear accurate response to the prompt and
- illustrates this answer by effectively telling a variety of mostly relevant examples (mostly "telling/informing").

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- Writer's response contains an adequate opening and closing.
- Response may contain minor grammatical errors.

### A "2" response (Developing) = 15 points

- Offers an accurate response to the prompt
- Flawed or underdeveloped in ONE of the following:
  - Opening, development and examples in body, closing
- Response may contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.

### A "1" response (Limited) = 1-10 points

- Response to prompt may be off-topic or lack focus
- Flawed or underdeveloped in TWO of the following:
  - Opening, development and examples in body, closing
- Response may contain significant grammatical errors.

### A "0" response (Undeveloped) = no points

- Content is severely lacking, off-topic, or contains significant grammatical errors that prevent reader's understanding

<b>Rubric: Prompts #2, 3, and 4 (Analysis or Argumentative)</b>
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### A "4" response (Advanced) = 25 points

- Offers a focused, accurate, and insightful response to the prompt/question
- Supports claims with a variety of specific, relevant, and concrete evidence, including direct quotes and other text references
- Connects evidence to claims with insightful, perceptive, and fully explained analysis that's free of plot summary
- Contains no or minimal grammatical errors that do not detract from written voice.

### A "3" response (Proficient) = 20 points

- Offers a clear, accurate response to the prompt/question
- Supports claims with mostly specific, relevant evidence, some of which may be repetitious
- Connects evidence to claims with adequately explained analysis that is mostly free of plot summary
- May contain minor grammatical errors.

### A "2" response (Developing) = 15 points

- Offers an accurate response to the prompt/question
- Flawed in ONE of the following:
  - Either lacks specific, relevant evidence: evidence is vague or repetitious
  - Or lacks adequately explained analysis: analysis is superficial or unsupported
- May contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.

### A "1" response (Limited) = 1-10 points

- Offers an incomplete, limited, or inaccurate response to the prompt/question
- Lacks specific, relevant evidence: evidence is vague or repetitious
- Lacks adequately explained analysis: analysis is superficial or unsupported
- May contain grammatical errors that detract from written voice.

### A "0" response (Undeveloped) = no points

- Entire response is incomplete, inaccurate, or off-topic
- May contain significant grammatical errors that prevent reader's understanding.