

Masterworks of Literature: World
First Midterm: First Summer Session

NAME: _____

TA's NAME: _____

This examination should take about sixty minutes, but you will have the 75 minutes. Please note that it is scored out of 120 points. Please write in ink.

**FOR ALL SECTIONS, ANALYSIS IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE MORE THAN A PASSING GRADE.**

I. You will view a series of six images, once quickly and once more slowly. Each image has a number. Please refer to the image by number. Please select FOUR (4) of the images and identify the subject of the image and a text to which it relates. Please comment briefly on three (3) interesting features of the images, explaining clearly why they are interesting. Please be brief, but precise. Please do not repeat yourself or rely only on plot summary. (5 points each)

II. Below are SIX (6) quotations. Identify FOUR (4) of the following quotations by giving the title of the text, the author, the context in which the quotation occurs (who says it, who/what is it about, etc.), and a brief comment on the importance of the passage to the work as a whole. (10 points each)

1. "Words are not just wind. Words have something to say. But if what they have to say is not fixed, then do they really say something? Or do they say nothing?"
2. "Since you blindly ignore
a great sage like me,
the lover you worship
with mindless devotion
will not remember you –"
3. "Oh my lord, you do not know this monster, and that is the reason that you are not afraid. I who know him, I am terrified."
4. "By God, had I been in your place I would have killed a hundred or even a thousand women."
5. "The double grief of a lost bliss
is to recall its happy hour in pain.
Your Guide and Teacher know the truth of this."
6. "What you say sounds gentle enough. Still in my heart
I greatly dread that you are plotting some evil,
And, therefore I trust you even less than before."

III. Write a brief essay in answer to TWO of the following questions. Please write in complete sentences and make specific references to the texts as you present your argument. (30 points each).

1. Both *Medea* and *Sakuntala* are centered on the story of a woman who is punished. Both texts ask the audience to consider whether these punishments are deserved and whether they are too heavy or too light. Please offer an account of the nature and appropriateness of the punishment each character receives and an analysis of how each character responds to her punishment. Based on evidence from the text, please evaluate whether you see the text as inviting the audience to accept or to reject the central character's action in each of the two stories. What are the implications of their choices for them personally and for us?
2. Both *Gilgamesh* and Chuang Chou's text focus the power of words, but also on their limits. Each insists that words are important, but they diverge from each other about the nature of that importance. Using appropriate comments from the two texts about what words can/cannot do, please describe and assess the role and importance of language for human beings. Please offer an account of how and why the two texts invite their readers to think about language. Please also consider, given the ideas in the text, how we are invited to use language. Finally, please consider what consequence each text assigns to how we use words.
3. Shahrazad and Montaigne's narrator both encounter violent practices which violate their personal values. These practices seem terrible, and in both cases they seem to demand some response. Contrasting the experiences of the two characters, please offer an account of what these practices are and what values underlie them. Please then assess how each character responds to the violence. You will want to consider the practice itself, the views society already holds of the behavior in question, and the actual response of the two characters. Finally, do you see the texts as validating any particular value system, or do you think that such judgments are left to the reader? You may find that the texts agree, that they disagree, or that they offer multiple perspectives.