

NAME: _____

TA's NAME: _____

Masterworks of Literature: World
Sample Exam 3

This examination should take about seventy-five minutes, but you will have the full ninety minutes if you need them. Please note that it is scored out of 100 points. Please write in ink.

Section One (10 points)

The world is scheduled for destruction tomorrow (to improve traffic flow in the Milky Way), but you have been invited to a meeting of the intergalactic council. The councilors, who want to eliminate the Earth, are giving you the chance to explain why it should be spared and fortunately they like literature. Pick any author from the last third of the syllabus (Pushkin on) and explain why because of him or her our planet deserves to be spared, why the human race should be allowed to continue to write. In order to be persuasive, the council insists that you give them a taste of the author's style too. Since you may not remember an exact quotation, please invent a couple of lines yourself that copy your author's style. Thanks for taking the time to spare our little planet!

Section Two (50 points)

Please identify FIVE of the following seven quotations. (10 points each)

You will need to tell me: 1) the text from which the quotation is taken
2) the author of the text
3) the speaker and the context in which the passage occurs (who says it, when, about what, to whom, etc.)
4) two reasons why the passage is important

1. "Why not try my luck...? Become introduced to her, try to win her favor, perhaps become her lover...? But all that demands time, and she's eighty-seven; she might die in a week, in two days...! And the story itself...? Can one really believe it...? No!"
2. "The torrential rains, Captain Liddell Hart comments, caused this delay, an insignificant one, to be sure."
3. "Sometimes, too, as Eve was created from a rib of Adam, a woman would be born during my sleep from some strain..."
4. "As he walked back to the court he thought about that book. Every day brought him some new material. The story of this man who had killed a messenger and hanged himself would make interesting reading."

5. "If I fall on my knees, if I go through the ritual, the ancient antics, it's you, unknown figures, you I adore; if I open my arms; it's you I embrace, you I draw to me – adorable world."
6. "I have more memories than if I had lived a thousand years.
Even a bureau crammed with souvenirs,
Old bills, love letters, receipts,
Court depositions, locks of hair in plaits,
Hides fewer secrets than my brain could yield."
7. "And suddenly my memory revealed itself. The taste was that of a little piece of Madeleine which on Sunday mornings at Combray (because on those mornings I did not go out before mass), when I went to say good morning to her in her bedroom, my aunt Léonie used to give me, dipping it first in her own cup of tea or tisane."

Section Three (40 points)

Write a brief essay in answer to TWO of the following questions. Please write in complete sentences. Please DO NOT REPEAT ANY IDEAS OR TEXTS in the essays. Please do more than summarize the plot. Please make specific references to the texts as you present your analysis and remember to explain why your ideas are important. (20 points each).

1. Several texts in this course have dealt with the ways in which memories or histories are transmitted over time. Sometimes the transmission is from parent to child, from one generation to another. Sometimes the memories are transmitted from one moment to another in a single individual's life. Using one text from the beginning of the semester and one from this last third, compare the ways in which the authors describe and explore the role of memory.
2. A number of the texts we have read this semester are set in traditional patriarchal contexts, in worlds which are controlled by father and males. Choose two texts (using one text from the beginning of the semester and one from this last third) and discuss how women are represented. Do they resist the individual men or societies? Do they capitulate and conform to the male authorities and to those who attempt to control them? How do the texts invite you to view the struggles of these women?
3. Many of our authors have been preoccupied with defining what it means to be civilized and to be cultured. Using one text from the beginning of the semester and one from this last third, select and analyze two texts that offer differing views. Finally, give your own assessment of what the consequences are of comparing your culture to someone else's in terms of understanding their culture as well as your own.