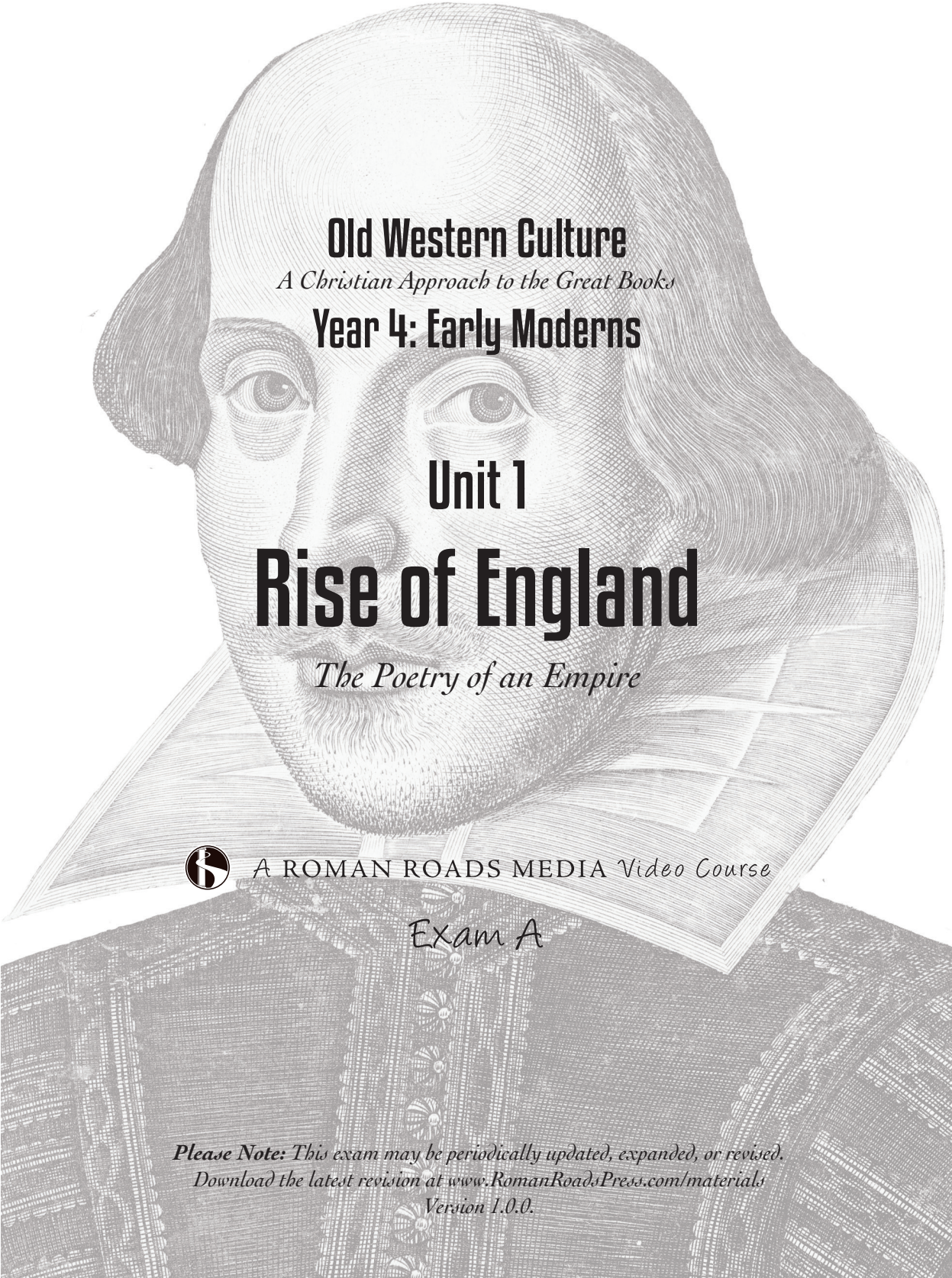




Old Western Culture

A Christian Approach to the Great Books

Year 4: Early Moderns

Unit 1

Rise of England

The Poetry of an Empire



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA Video Course

Exam A

Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.

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Version 1.0.0.



Rise of England Exam A

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What is the Enlightenment? (10 pts)

2. What, according to Aristotle, does *hamartia* mean? (10 pts)

3. How does poetry express God's image? (10 pts)

4. What does Cordelia mean when she says, “my love’s more ponderous than my tongue” (*King Lear*, Act 1, Scene 1, lines 79-80)? (10 pts)

5. *Richard III*. In what way has Richard III adopted the philosophy of Machiavelli? (10 pts)

6. *Merchant of Venice*. How is Shylock’s loan different from Antonio’s loan to Bassanio? (10 pts)



7. What are the three kinds of sonnets that are very common in English literature? (10 pts)

8. What are the three significant events that take place during the seventeenth century concerning the English government? (10 pts)

9. What is Milton imitating when he invokes the “Heavenly Muse” in the opening of *On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity* and *Paradise Lost*? (10 pts)

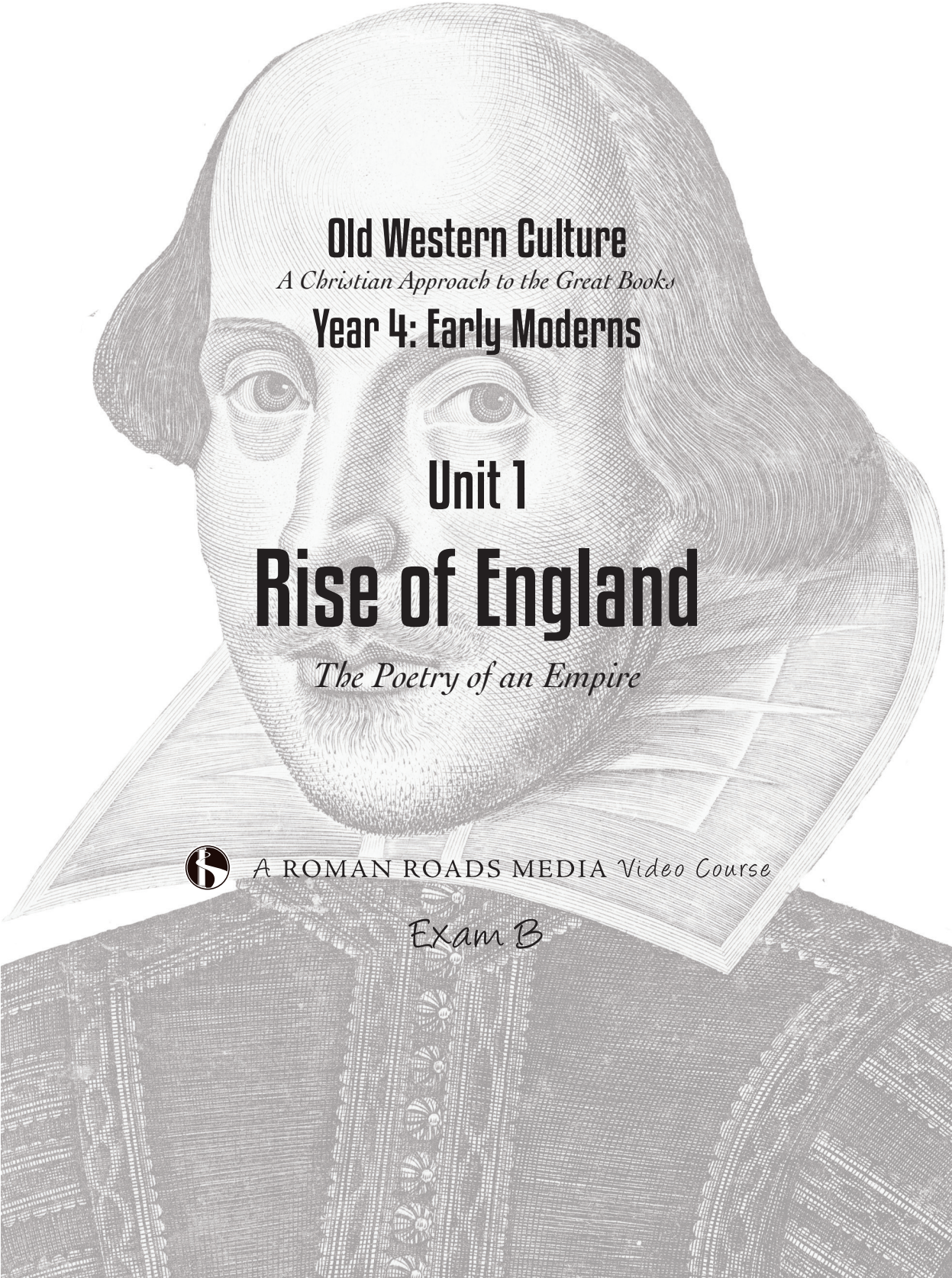
10. In book 2 of *Paradise Lost*, what is the plan that Satan and his followers finally decide to act upon? (10 pts)

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does Eve dream about under the influence of Satan in Book 5, lines 28ff of *Paradise Lost*?
(BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

12. In Milton's sonnet "*On the Late Massacre in Piedmont*," what does "The triple tyrant" refer to? Why does Milton refer to the Waldensians as a people who "kept thy truth so pure of old"? (5 pts)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

A detailed engraving of William Shakespeare's face, showing his characteristic features: a high forehead, deep-set eyes, a straight nose, and a full beard. He is wearing a ruff collar and a patterned garment.

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Exam B



Rise of England

Exam B

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What is the Romantic movement? (10 pts)

2. What is the Christian vision of “deep comedy” that is reflected in Shakespeare’s comedies? (10 pts)

3. What is poetry? (10 pts)

4. King Lear calls himself “a man more sinned against than sinning” (*King Lear*, Act 3, Scene 2, lines 1736-1737). Is this entirely true? Why or why not? (10 pts)

5. How is *Richard III* a tragedy not just about the king, but about the nation of England? (10 pts)

6. In *The Merchant of Venice*, how does Portia trap Shylock? (10 pts)

7. Describe the rhetorical device “apostrophe.” How does John Donne use it in Sonnet 10? (10 pts)



8. What type of poem is Marvell trying to imitate in his *To His Coy Mistress*? (10 pts)

9. What does Milton ask God to do with the “martyred blood and ashes” (Lines 10-11, *On the Late Massacre in Piedmont*)? (10 pts)

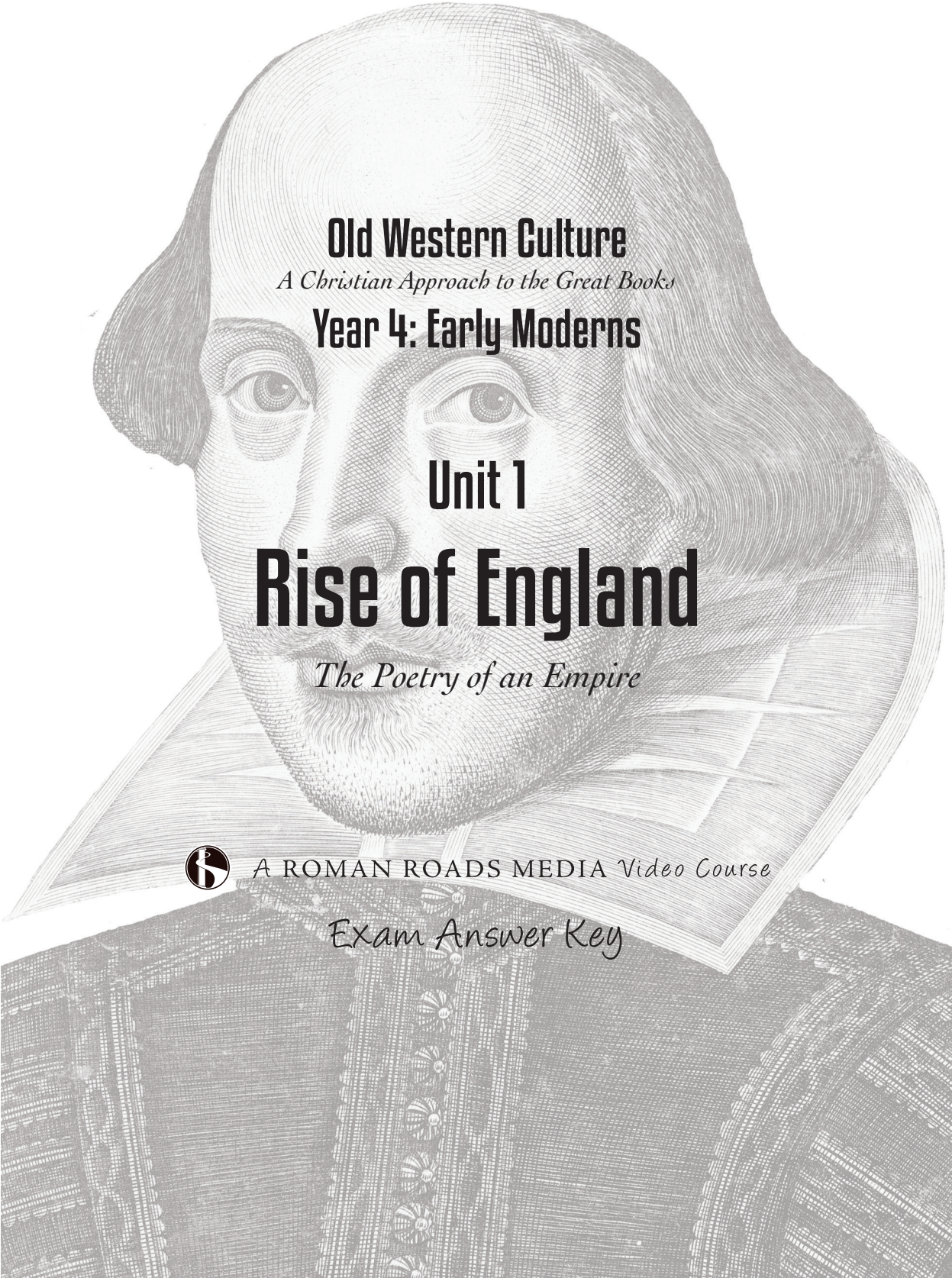
10. What did the word *world* mean in Milton’s time? (10 pts)

EXTRA CREDIT

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Exam Answer Key

NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points.

Two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions by sending an email to info@romanroadsmedia.com.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage the parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the workbook questions. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, many of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose if and how to use the extra exam.

“MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor—and should be received as such.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at info@romanroadsmedia.com. We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



Rise of England Exam A Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What is the Enlightenment? (10 pts)

The Enlightenment was a philosophical movement that began to put excessive trust in human reason—in logic and rationality—as the source of meaning and truth and significance instead of revelation.

2. What, according to Aristotle, does *hamartia* mean? (10 pts)

Hamartia is a "missing of the mark," sometimes called a tragic flaw or moral flaw on the part of the main character. It can also look like a tragic/moral blunder, that is, a mistake made unknowingly (e.g., in the story of Oedipus).

3. How does poetry express God's image? (10 pts)

God is a speaker and a maker. We are made in the image of a God who creates and creates things that are completely unnecessary. God needs nothing outside of Himself, and yet He created the world and all that is in it. Poetry, like other arts, is an unnecessary use of language; it both says things that don't need to be said at all as well as saying them using an excess of language.

4. What does Cordelia mean when she says, "my love's more ponderous than my tongue" (*King Lear*, Act 1, Scene 1, lines 79-80)? (10 pts)

Her love for her father is greater and truer than she can express with words. She cannot flatter her father as her sisters do, because she loves rightly, with appropriate affection befitting a loving daughter.

5. *Richard III*. In what way has Richard III adopted the philosophy of Machiavelli? (10 pts)

His kingship depends on his ability to manipulate and control the people around him. He is the consummate actor in every scenario, willing to do anything and embracing brutality and violence while smiling and putting on a show of piety.

6. *Merchant of Venice*. How is Shylock's loan different from Antonio's loan to Bassanio? (10 pts)

Shylock's loan is rooted in contempt and a desire for gain and thus has conditions upon it. He places a harsh interest on the loan—his "pound of flesh" from Antonio. Antonio makes his loan to Bassanio out of love and affection and a desire to help Bassanio in his efforts to woo Portia. There are no harsh conditions placed on its repayment.



7. What are the three kinds of sonnets that are very common in English literature? (10 pts)

English (Shakespearean) sonnet, Spenserian sonnet, and the Italian sonnet.

8. What are the three significant events that take place during the seventeenth century concerning the English government? (10 pts)

The English Civil War (at the end of which the king is beheaded), the Interregnum, and the Restoration (of the monarchy).

9. What is Milton imitating when he invokes the "Heavenly Muse" in the opening of *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity* and *Paradise Lost*? (10 pts)

He is imitating classic works of poetry, such as Homer and Vergil, in which the muses of Greek and Roman mythology are called upon to assist the poet in his work.

10. In book 2 of *Paradise Lost*, what is the plan that Satan and his followers finally decide to act upon? (10 pts)

They decide to investigate the rumor or "prophesy" that had circulated in Heaven regarding the creation of a new world so that they might see if some sort of mischief may be enacted there.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does Eve dream about under the influence of Satan in Book 5, lines 28ff of *Paradise Lost*?

(BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

She dreams of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and a bright angel that encourages her to take and eat of it.

12. In Milton's sonnet "*On the Late Massacre in Piedmont*," what does "The triple tyrant" refer to? Why does Milton refer to the Waldensians as a people who "kept thy truth so pure of old"? (5 pts)

The "triple tyrant" refers to the three branches of the Roman Catholic Church that persecuted the Waldensians: The Priest, the Inquisitor, and the monks. Priests forced confessions; Inquisitor soldiers would kill any Waldensian who did not recant their Protestant faith, literally rolling "mother with infant down the rocks" in the Piedmont region during the 1600s. Monks would sometimes receive the newly orphaned children into monasteries where they were educated in the Roman Catholic faith. The Waldensians often depicted caricatures of these three groups in their books, pounding an anvil which represented the faith of the Waldensians, adding the caption, "the hammers [of persecution] may hit, but the anvil [of our faith] remains."

Milton says they "kept thy truth so pure of old" because the Waldensians were proto-Protestants, claiming to go back to the time of Pope Sylvester in the 4th century, having never deviated from the ancient faith of the Apostles as Milton (and the Waldensians) accused the Roman Catholics of doing. While the 4th-century timing is disputed, the Waldensians are most famously descended from Peter Waldo of Lyons in the 1100s, a man who took a vow of poverty in reaction to the excess he saw in the church and insisted on preaching in the common tongue. The church excommunicated him after his request to preach was denied, and he chose to preach nevertheless. The Waldensians became known as "bards" who would travel from town to town preaching in the common tongue.



Rise of England Exam B Answer Key

ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What is the Romantic movement? (10 pts)

A philosophical movement that rejected the trust in reason and instead moved to a reliance on emotion, intuition, imagination, and feeling as the source of truth, meaning, and significance.

2. What is the Christian vision of “deep comedy” that is reflected in Shakespeare’s comedies? (10 pts)

The biblical idea that Dr. Leithart calls “deep comedy” is the idea that the end of human history is going to be better than the beginning. It is the movement from a garden to a garden city (“Eden glorified”). It is the opposite of the classical pagan worldview that sees the world as tragic, where things begin in glory and end in defeat or sorrow.

3. What is poetry? (10 pts)

Poetry is a concentrated excess of language; a use of language or speech that is both concentrated and excessive.

4. King Lear calls himself “a man more sinned against than sinning” (*King Lear*, Act 3, Scene 2, lines 1736-1737). Is this entirely true? Why or why not? (10 pts)

No. Lear, while certainly misused by his treacherous daughters and their husbands, bore some responsibility because he had relinquished his power by giving his kingdom over to his daughters. He also banished his only obedient and loving daughter out of anger that she could not flatter him as her sisters did. He showed himself blind to the love of Cordelia, susceptible to the flattery of Goneril and Regan, and foolish in managing his kingdom.

5. How is *Richard III* a tragedy not just about the king, but about the nation of England? (10 pts)

The villainous King (Richard III) begins to infect the entire kingdom. Everyone around him begins to become murderous, to dissemble and lie and hide their real intentions. The whole kingdom collapses when the king is immoral and murderous.

6. In *The Merchant of Venice*, how does Portia trap Shylock? (10 pts)

She traps Shylock by insisting on the letter of the law even more strictly than Shylock the Jew. She brings mercy by insisting on the very letter of the law.

7. Describe the rhetorical device “apostrophe.” How does John Donne use it in Sonnet 10? (10 pts)

Apostrophe is a type of personification in which the speaker addresses something—e.g., an object, a place, an abstract idea, or a person—that isn't there as if it were there and could hear him. In Sonnet 10, the speaker uses an apostrophe to address Death.



8. What type of poem is Marvell trying to imitate in his *To His Coy Mistress*? (10 pts)

He is attempting to write what is called a carpe diem poem, imitating the Roman poets like Ovid.

9. What does Milton ask God to do with the “martyred blood and ashes” (Lines 10-11, *On the Late Massacre in Piedmont*)? (10 pts)

He asks that God sow them over all of the Italian fields. This echoes Tertullian's statement that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

10. What did the word *world* mean in Milton's time? (10 pts)

All that exists; all of creation. The same as what the ancient Greeks meant by *cosmos* and the Romans meant by *mundus*.

EXTRA CREDIT

11. What does Raphael tell Adam about curiosity and desire for knowledge?
(BONUS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. 5 Pts.)

He cautions him about being too desirous of knowledge for its own sake. He says it's a kind of greed or gluttony, and that gathering knowledge needs to be tempered.

12. In Milton's sonnet "*On the Late Massacre in Piedmont*," what does "The triple tyrant" refer to? Why does Milton refer to the Waldensians as a people who "kept thy truth so pure of old"?
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