

Old Western Culture
A Christian Approach to the Great Books
Year 4: The Early Moderns

Unit 4
The Novels
Final Exam



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA Video Course

Version 1.0.0



Final Exam

Introduction to The Novels

1. Why do historians make divisions between historical eras like Medieval to Renaissance? What is with dividing history into eras or periods? (5)

2. According to Mr. Callihan, what is the key marker of a golden age? (5)

3. Based on the first two chapters, do you think Mr. Bennet is a good husband? (5)

4. In Chapter 34, Darcy proposes to Elizabeth but we don't read all his words. Instead we are given his words summarized by Elizabeth. Why does Austen not give us his exact words? (5)

5. In *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, how does the story open? Explain the significance. (5)

6. Is it problematic that Dickens does not really focus our attention on Christ in a story about Christmas? In 1-3 paragraphs, using proofs, provide a rational explanation for your answer. (15)

7. Do you agree with the short story of Ivan's that the Grand Inquisitor would release Jesus? Explain. (5)

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "The State is not God. It has not the right to take away what it cannot restore when it wants to"? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs (10).

9. How does *Anna Karenina* compare to *Pride and Prejudice* on the issue of following normative morality? (5)

10. What is the rule of Chekhov's gun? (5)

11. What are the four functions of Faerie Story? (5)

12. What does the word "Eucatastrophe" mean, and how is Jesus' resurrection a Eucatastrophe? (5)

13. In five hundred years, what book(s) from the last fifty years will be part of the great books of Old Western Culture? In about 5 paragraphs, defend your answer by explaining how that book fits into the themes of Old Western Culture. Be sure to prove your thesis with credible proofs and reasonable arguments. (25 points)

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Introduction to The Novels

1. Why do historians make divisions between historical eras like Medieval to Renaissance? What is with dividing history into eras or periods? (5)

Historians do this because it is important to see how societies change over time and there are key ways that different periods really are different. Historians sometimes do this well but not always.

2. According to Mr. Callihan, what is the key marker of a golden age? (5)

The key marker of a golden age is the life of the mind. Technology doesn't seem to be the measure of a golden age. That idea stems from the influence of science and technology on our age.

3. Based on the first two chapters, do you think Mr. Bennet is a good husband? (5)

Answers may vary. It seems that he keeps his wife in the dark sometimes. He compliments his wife and also teases her, maybe a little too much teasing. He tends to withdraw to his library when things get chaotic with his wife and daughters.

4. In Chapter 34, Darcy proposes to Elizabeth but we don't read all his words. Instead we are given his words summarized by Elizabeth. Why does Austen not give us his exact words? (5)

This is done so that our perspective is shaded by Elizabeth's perspective. Mr. Darcy probably did better in his proposal than she says in her summary but she is upset with him and so she only sees a certain part of the proposal.

5. In *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, how does the story open? Explain the significance. (5)

It opens by making the point that Marley was dead (as a doornail). The significance is that Scrooge is still very much alive physically, but dead in his spirit. There is a connection between the main characters demonstrating what it means to be alive and what it means to be dead.

6. Is it problematic that Dickens does not really focus our attention on Christ in a story about Christmas? In 1-3 paragraphs, using proofs, provide a rational explanation for your answer. (15)

Answers may vary; but, yes, it seems to be a problem because Christmas is about Jesus not just doing good deeds for other people.

7. Do you agree with the short story of Ivan's that the Grand Inquisitor would release Jesus? Explain. (5)

Answers may vary. No, it doesn't seem accurate. The way the religious leaders of Jesus' day responded to him, it seems the inquisitor would have done the same: killed Jesus again.

8. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "The State is not God. It has not the right to take away what it cannot restore when it wants to"? Explain in 1-2 paragraphs (10).

Answers can vary. While the state is not God, Romans 13:4 says that the governing authority "does not bear the sword in vain."

9. How does *Anna Karenina* compare to *Pride and Prejudice* on the issue of following normative morality? (5)

Anna Karenina follows Romantic ideals and suggests that normative morality should be thrown off in pursuit of one's own desires. P & P suggests otherwise--normative morality holds an essential place in society and should be conserved.

10. What is the rule of Chekhov's gun? (5)

Everything should matter in the story. If a rifle shows up in the first act of the story, then it better go off by the third act or it is extraneous.

11. What are the four functions of Faerie Story? (5)

Fantasy - imaginative stories with the inner consistency of reality; we make (sub-creators) because we are made in the image of the Creator.

Recovery - reawaken us to the truth that the world where we live is itself pretty fantastic.

Escape - we must not confuse the Escape of the Prisoner with the Flight of the Deserter.

Consolation - the joy of the happy ending; or more correctly of the good catastrophe, the sudden joyous "turn" (eucatastrophe).

12. What does the word "Eucatastrophe" mean, and how is Jesus' resurrection a Eucatastrophe? (5)

The two parts are 'Eu' meaning good and 'Catastrophe' meaning terrible end. So it means a happy disaster. Tolkien uses it to name an event which seems to be hopeless and impossibly dark but suddenly there occurs a joyous and unexpected deliverance. Jesus's resurrection is an example because it is a dark event that has a surprising and suddenly joyous deliverance.

13. In five hundred years, what book(s) from the last fifty years will be part of the great books of Old Western Culture? In about 5 paragraphs, defend your answer by explaining how that book fits into the themes of Old Western Culture. Be sure to prove your thesis with credible proofs and reasonable arguments. (25 points)

Answers will vary but students should argue reasonably from the principles that substantiate other books in the tradition as being great (e.g., timelessness, perennial human questions/issues, beauty, quality of writing, etc.). They should also note in their arguments that it is impossible to establish a modern book as being a "Great Book," because it hasn't been around long enough.

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.