

Lingua e letteratura angloamericana TRIENNALE A 2022/23 – 19 JUNE 2023

- You have to write **at least 2 answers** in English. Make sure that your answers contain no spelling or grammar errors;
- On top of your exam write **your name, full student number (e.g. 32/1X/YYYYY), your email address, and the number of credits you need** (if you only need 6 credits write “6-CFU exam”; if you need 12 credits write “12-CFU exam/module A” “12-CFU exam/module B”);
- Write a short paragraph per question (10-20 lines);
- Read the questions carefully and try to answer them in a precise, nuanced, and complete way. You will be assessed on **your ability to read primary texts carefully and to clearly explain your analysis**. Be **thoughtful and critical**;
- The answer should have a clear, logical structure, with smooth transitions between sentences and/or paragraphs;
- If you write an introduction and/or a conclusion, keep these short (no more than 20% of the word count for introduction and conclusion together) and make sure each part is relevant; quotations too may not comprise more than 20% per answer – preferably less;
- Answers 1 and 2 will be corrected and marked first. **If you do not pass these parts of the exam, the entire exam will be failed.**
- **Originality is important: find your own references and quotes and formulate your own explanations and arguments. THERE WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC PLAGIARISM CHECK.**

1. Write a comment for the following passage, highlighting its general meaning and its significance within Herman Melville's *Benito Cereno*:

Seating himself in the stern, Captain Delano, making a last salute, ordered the boat shoved off. The crew had their oars on end. The bowsman pushed the boat a sufficient distance for the oars to be lengthwise dropped. The instant that was done, Don Benito sprang over the bulwarks, falling at the feet of Captain Delano; at the same time, calling towards his ship, but in tones so frenzied, that none in the boat could understand him. But, as if not equally obtuse, three Spanish sailors, from three different and distant parts of the ship, splashed into the sea, swimming after their captain, as if intent upon his rescue.

2. Provide a translation and a comment for this passage from the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Erasmus students will only write a comment):

I soon learned the names of these letters, and for what they were intended when placed upon a piece of timber in the ship-yard. I immediately commenced copying them, and in a short time was able to make the four letters named. After that, when I met with any boy who I knew could write, I would tell him I could write as well as he. The next word would be, "I don't believe you. Let me see you try it." I would then make the letters which I had been so fortunate as to learn, and ask him to beat that. In this way I got a good many lessons in writing, which it is quite possible I should never have gotten in any other way.

=====

3. What is the structure of Puritan sermons? Discuss the topic highlighting the function of sermons in the Puritan community.
4. Discuss Margaret Fuller's role in American Transcendentalism, focusing on her view on women.
5. The central themes in James F. Cooper's *Leatherstocking Tales*.

Lingua e letteratura angloamericana TRIENNALE B 2022/23 – 19 JUNE 2023

- You have to write **at least 2 answers** in English. Make sure that your answers contain no spelling or grammar errors;
- On top of your exam write **your name, full student number (e.g. 32/1X/YYYYY), your email address, and the number of credits you need** (if you only need 6 credits write “6-CFU exam”; if you need 12 credits write “12-CFU exam/module A” or “12-CFU exam/module B”);
- Write a short paragraph per question (10-20 lines);
- Read the questions carefully and try to answer them in a precise, nuanced, and complete way. You will be assessed on **your ability to read primary texts carefully and to clearly explain your analysis**. Be **thoughtful, critical, and articulate**;
- The answer should have a clear, logical structure, with smooth transitions between sentences and/or paragraphs;
- If you write an introduction and/or a conclusion, keep these short (no more than 20% of the word count for introduction and conclusion together) and make sure each part is relevant; quotations too may not comprise more than 20% per answer – preferably less;
- Answers 1 and 2 will be corrected and marked first. **If you do not pass these parts of the exam, the entire exam will be failed.**
- **Originality is important: find your own references and quotes and formulate your own explanations and arguments. THERE WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC PLAGIARISM CHECK.**

1. Write a comment for the following passage, highlighting its general meaning and its significance within Henry James’s *Daisy Miller*.

Daisy, lovely in the flattering moonlight, looked at him a moment. Then — “All the evening,” she answered gently. ... “I never saw anything so pretty.”
“I am afraid,” said Winterbourne, “that you will not think roman fever very pretty. this is the way people catch it. I wonder,” he added, turning to Giovanelli, “that you, a native roman, should countenance such a terrible indiscretion.”
“Ah,” said the handsome native, “for myself, I am not afraid.”
“Neither am I—for you! I am speaking for this young lady.”
Giovanelli lifted his well-shaped eyebrows and showed his brilliant teeth. But he took Winterbourne’s rebuke with docility. “I told the Signorina it was a grave indiscretion; but when was the Signorina ever prudent?”

2. Provide a translation and a comment for the following passage from Zora Neale Hurston’s “How It Feels to Be Colored Me” (Erasmus students will only write a comment):

At certain times I have no race, I am me. When I set my hat at a certain angle and saunter down Seventh Avenue, Harlem City, feeling as snooty as the lions in front of the Forty-Second Street Library, for instance. So far as my feelings are concerned, Peggy Hopkins Joyce on the Boule Mich with her gorgeous raiment, stately carriage, knees knocking together in a most aristocratic manner, has nothing on me. The cosmic Zora emerges. I belong to no race nor time. I am the eternal feminine with its string of beads.

=====

3. T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound: summarize their ideas about modern poetry.
4. Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois: their roles in black history and their impact on the US society and culture.
5. Ernest Hemingway’s style and works.

Lingua e letteratura angloamericana TRIENNALE A 2022/23 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

- You have to write **at least 2 answers** in English. Make sure that your answers contain no spelling or grammar errors;
- On top of your exam write **your name, full student number (e.g. 32/1X/YYYYY), your email address, and the number of credits you need (if you only need 6 credits write “6-CFU exam”; if you need 12 credits write “12-CFU exam/module A” “12-CFU exam/module B”)**;
- Write a short paragraph per question (10-20 lines);
- Read the questions carefully and try to answer them in a precise, nuanced, and complete way. You will be assessed on **your ability to read primary texts carefully and to clearly explain your analysis**. Be **thoughtful and critical**;
- The answer should have a clear, logical structure, with smooth transitions between sentences and/or paragraphs;
- If you write an introduction and/or a conclusion, keep these short (no more than 20% of the word count for introduction and conclusion together) and make sure each part is relevant; quotations too may not comprise more than 20% per answer – preferably less;
- Answers 1 and 2 will be corrected and marked first. **If you do not pass these parts of the exam, the entire exam will be failed.**
- **Originality is important: find your own references and quotes and formulate your own explanations and arguments. THERE WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC PLAGIARISM CHECK.**

1. Write a comment for the following passage, relating Thoreau’s words to the main ideas of Transcendentalism:

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion.

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden, or, Life in the Woods* (1854)

2. Provide a translation and a comment for this poem by Emily Dickinson (Erasmus students will only write a comment):

“Heavenly Father” – take to thee
The supreme iniquity
Fashioned by thy candid Hand
In a moment contraband –
Though to trust us – seem to us
More respectful – “We are Dust” –
We apologize to thee
For thine own Duplicity –

=====

3. The political and social causes of the Civil War, and its impact on U.S. history, society and culture.
4. James Fenimore Cooper: his role and importance in American culture and literature.
5. Emily Dickinson’s poetry: the most important themes and the ones you enjoyed the most.

Lingua e letteratura angloamericana TRIENNALE B 2022/23 – 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

- You have to write **at least 2 answers** in English. Make sure that your answers contain no spelling or grammar errors;
- On top of your exam write **your name, full student number (e.g. 32/1X/YYYYY), your email address, and the number of credits you need (if you only need 6 credits write “6-CFU exam”; if you need 12 credits write “12-CFU exam/module A” or “12-CFU exam/module B”);**
- Write a short paragraph per question (10-20 lines);
- Read the questions carefully and try to answer them in a precise, nuanced, and complete way. You will be assessed on **your ability to read primary texts carefully and to clearly explain your analysis**. Be **thoughtful, critical, and articulate**;
- The answer should have a clear, logical structure, with smooth transitions between sentences and/or paragraphs;
- If you write an introduction and/or a conclusion, keep these short (no more than 20% of the word count for introduction and conclusion together) and make sure each part is relevant; quotations too may not comprise more than 20% per answer – preferably less;
- Answers 1 and 2 will be corrected and marked first. **If you do not pass these parts of the exam, the entire exam will be failed.**
- **Originality is important: find your own references and quotes and formulate your own explanations and arguments. THERE WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC PLAGIARISM CHECK.**

1. Write a comment for the following passage, highlighting its general meaning and its significance within Henry James’s *Daisy Miller*.

“And where is the mother?”

“I haven’t the least idea. they are very dreadful people.”

Winterbourne meditated a moment. “they are very ignorant—very innocent only. Depend upon it they are not bad.”

“They are hopelessly vulgar,” said Mrs. Costello. “Whether or no being hopelessly vulgar is being ‘bad’ is a question for the metaphysicians. they are bad enough to dislike, at any rate; and for this short life that is quite enough.”

2. Provide a translation and a comment for the following passage from F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “Babylon Revisited” (Erasmus students will only write a comment):

On that terrible February night that Marion remembered so vividly, a slow quarrel had gone on for hours. There was a scene at the Florida, and then he attempted to take her home, and then she kissed young Webb at a table; after that there was what she had hysterically said. When he arrived home alone he turned the key in the lock in wild anger. How could he know she would arrive an hour later alone, that there would be a snowstorm in which she wandered about in slippers, too confused to find a taxi?

=====

3. The Progressive Era: the conditions of American society in the early Twentieth century.
4. Edith Wharton: a brief overview of her role in American modernism.
5. Ernest Hemingway’s “iceberg theory”: discuss it in relation to his major works.