

MATERIALS

- Bring a pen & a Large Greenbook (available at the bookstore)
- Books and notes are not allowed.
- I will have dictionaries you can use.

E137 MIDTERM EXAM FORMAT & EXAMPLES

Part 1: Brief Identification

Directions: Choose six out of the following and identify the author (if possible) and text, and then write a brief phrase or sentence as to its significance. (15 minutes, 18 points)

Choose 6 out of 9; here are a few examples:

1. Queen Modthryth
2. But no wonder if a fool finds his way into folly / and be wiped of his wits by womanly guile-- / it's the way of the world.
3. She coude muchel of wandering by the way: / Gat-toothed was she, soothly for to say.
4. They let the ground keep that treasure . . . / as useless to men now as it ever was.

Part 2: Short Answer

Directions: Choose four of the following and answer in three to five sentences. Be brief yet as specific and detailed as possible in your discussion. (25 minutes, 20 points)

Choose 4 out of 8; here are a couple examples:

1. What was the Norman Invasion and what was its impact on English literature?
2. Discuss the significance of Morgan le Faye's role in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Part 3: Short Essay

Directions: Choose one of the following questions and answer in essay form. Focus your answer by selecting specific and detailed examples from the different texts you use. Keep the time limitations in mind, as you must discuss a variety of texts in your answer. (45 minutes, 62 points)

Choose 1 (out of two); here's an example:

1. One of the reasons why early English literature is interesting is because each text gives us an idea of the historical, political, and social context in which it was written. Although these texts are fictional (and thus not exactly factual historical documents), they do reveal all sorts of cultural concerns--tensions about class and gender equality, opposing views on religion and fears of its corruption, anxieties regarding male-female relationships and/or marriages, and doubts about leadership and stability in a land of kings and queens. Each text we have discussed thus far has addressed at least one, if not many, of these issues. Choose **three texts** we have studied (one must be Anglo-Saxon, one must be Anglo-Norman, and one must be Renaissance). Consider the purpose of each text and discuss how each one reveals political or social tensions within the historical era in which it was written. No doubt a story is being told in each text, but behind the sword fight or love play, what is being revealed about society during that period? Be sure to use specific and detailed images/characters in your answer.