Final Exam Sample Questions

Section A

# William Blake

* Compare and contrast two corresponding poems from *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience.*
* Explore the role of nature within *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience.*
* Is Blake a Romantic era writer? Give examples of Romantic traits to Blake’s *Songs of Innocence* and *Songs of Experience.*
* Examine Blake’s poetry in light of the historical, political, philosophical, and cultural context.

Section B

# William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge

* Choose a poem from *Lyrical Ballads* and analyze its Romantic characteristics.
* Explore the meaning and purpose of Nature in one or more poems in *Lyrical Ballads*.
* Find examples from Wordsworth’s poetry to show how he used language to speak to the common man.
* Would you ascribe a moral to *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*? Defend your position.
* Explore the significance of the albatross in Coleridge’s *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.
* Compare and contrast Wordsworth and Coleridge’s writing.

Section C

George Gordon Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley

* In “Mont Blanc,” how does Shelley convey the sublime (a quality which rouses at the same moment mixed emotions of reverence, awe, and dread)?
* Explain how Shelley illustrates the ideals of a Romantic Poet in “Mont Blanc. What is the meaning in the final three lines?
* Explore nature and the human imagination in Shelley’s “Mont Blanc.”
* Compare and contrast the Romantic and Neo-classical traits in *Don Juan*.
* Examine the Byronic Hero as applied to *Don Juan* and/or “She Walks in Beauty” and “When We Two Parted.”
* Find examples of Romantic Orientalism in *Don Juan*.

Section D

Mary Shelley

* Who is the real Monster? Why?
* Discuss the symbol of fire in *Frankenstein* and its subtitle “The Modern Prometheus.”
* What is Romantic Orientalism, and how can it be applied to *Frankenstein?*
* Where do we see references to Paradise Lost and explore its meaning in *Frankenstein?*
* Make an argument for who is most responsible for the destruction that occurs in the text (Victor, the Monster, Society, Alphonse, etc?)
* Explore any parallels *Frankenstein* makes with any other Romantic author/text (Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Shelley)
* Explore the theme of creation in *Frankenstein*. Discuss how this theme could be metatextual.
* How is *Frankenstein* a reflection of Mary Shelley’s own life and voice?
* Explore man’s relation to Nature in *Frankenstein* and Nature’s role in the text.
* Examine the Gothic and/or Romantic traits of *Frankenstein.*