Sample Questions

**Wednesday Midterm Part I**

Section A – The Earl of Rochester and John Dryden

-Do you think that “MacFlecknoe” is a Neo-classical work? Why or why not? Give reasons and examples to support your position.

- Analyze how “MacFlecknoe” is a mock heroic poem?

- Examine the similarities of word choice and imagery in “MacFlecknoe” and “A Satyr on Charles II.”

- Compare and contrast Rochester’s and Dryden’s use of satire in their poems. How does each use irony and humor to attempt to correct vices?

- What are some types of Literary Criticism we could apply to “A Satyr on Charles II”? Choose one specifically and analyze the poem from this perspective.

Section B – Jonathan Swift

-How does Gulliver’s experience with the Lilliputions mirror the political and historical atmosphere in Britain at the time?

- List examples from “Modest Proposal” and/or *Gulliver’s Travels* that show how he used satire to criticize the actions and policies of the British Government and British society. Write a full paragraph on each example, describing in detail the correlation between the events in Swift’s story and the specific aspect of the government that Swift is reaction to.

- How Neo-classical is *Gulliver’s Travels* and/or “A Modest Proposal”?

- Analyze the role and perspective of the narrator in “A Modest Proposal.”

- Using the hero’s journey, do you believe Gulliver is a hero? What purpose does he serve as the narrator and protagonist?

**Thursday Midterm Part II**

Section C – Alexander Pope

- Who is the true victim in Rape of the Lock?

- Choose a theme from “The Rape of the Lock.” Using quotes and details, show how this theme continues throughout the piece.

- Choose three different characters or objects in “Rape of the Lock” and describe in detail what they would correlate to in a heroic epic, and what the significance of their presence in this mock-heroic is.

- Analyze the use of symbolism in “Rape of the Lock.”

Section D – Aphra Behn

- Analyze the way that Behn presents physical features among the characters in her story. How does this help to develop the narrative?

- Describe the role of the narrator in *Oroonoko*. What is Behn trying to convey through her presentation of this character?

- Explore and analyze purpose of the numerous references to the Garden of Eden in *Oroonoko*.

- Compare and contrast two characters from *Oroonoko.*

- Argue for or against *Oroonoko* as a Hero’s Journey (Joseph Campbell).

- Analyze the meaning of the end of *Oroonoko* and how it relates to the whole narrative.