

102 學年度中央大學英文系碩士班甄試入學考試

【筆試試題】

共 3 頁

Please read the following and answer ONE of the questions.

Q1.

The following passage is taken from E. D. Hirsch, *Cultural Literacy* (1988). Please read it carefully and write (1) your explication of Hirsch's views on education, and (2) your analysis of how this politics of education may shed light on recent protests in Hong Kong in regard to the proposed nationalist education.

Cultural literacy is even more important in the social sphere. The aim of universal literacy has never been a socially neutral mission in our country. Our traditional social goals were unforgettably renewed for us by Martin Luther King, Jr., in his "I Have a Dream" speech. King envisioned a country where the children of former slaves sit down at the table of equality with the children of former slave owners, where men and women deal with each other as equals and judge each other on their characters and achievements rather than their origins. Like Thomas Jefferson, he had a dream of a society founded not on race or class but on personal merit. In the present day, that dream depends on mature literacy. No modern society can hope to become a just society without a high level of universal literacy. Putting aside for the moment the practical arguments about the economic uses of literacy, we can contemplate the even more basic principle that underlies our national system of education in the first place--that people in a democracy can be entrusted to decide all important matters for themselves because they can deliberate and communicate with one another. Universal literacy is inseparable from democracy and is the canvas for Martin Luther King's picture as well as for Thomas Jefferson's. Both of these leaders understood that just having the right to vote is meaningless if a citizen is disenfranchised by illiteracy or semi-literacy. Illiterate and semiliterate Americans are condemned not only to poverty, but also to the powerlessness of incomprehension. Knowing that they do not understand the issues, and feeling prey to manipulative oversimplifications, they do not trust the system of which they are supposed to be the masters. They do not feel themselves to be active participants in our republic, and they often do not turn out to vote. The civic importance of cultural literacy lies in the fact that true enfranchisement depends upon knowledge, knowledge upon literacy, and literacy upon cultural literacy.....Although nationalism may be regrettable in some of its worldwide political effects, a mastery of national culture is essential to mastery of the standard language in every modern nation. This point is important for educational policy, because educators often stress the virtues of multicultural education. Such study is indeed valuable in itself; it inculcates tolerance and provides a perspective on our own traditions and values. But however

laudable it is, it should not be the primary focus of national education. It should not be allowed to supplant or interfere with our schools' responsibility to ensure our children's mastery of American literate culture. The acculturative responsibility of the schools is primary and fundamental. To teach the ways of one's own community has always been and still remains the essence of the education of our children, who enter neither a narrow tribal culture nor a transcendent world culture but a national literate culture. For profound historical reasons, this is the way of the modern worlds. It will not change soon, and it will certainly not be changed by educational policy alone.

Q2.

Read the following poem by the American “confessional” poet Robert Lowell:

“To Speak of Woe That Is in Marriage”

“It is the future generations that presses into being by means of these exuberant feelings and supersensible soap bubbles of ours.”

Schopenhauer

“The hot night makes us keep our bedroom windows open.

Our magnolia blossoms. Life begins to happen.

My hopped up husband drops his home disputes, And hits the streets to cruise for prostitutes, Free-lancing out along the razor’s edge.

This screwball might kill his wife, then take the pledge.

Oh the monotonous meanness of his lust....

It’s the injustice... he is so unjust –

Whiskey-blind, swaggering home at five.

What makes him tick? Each night now I tie Ten dollars and his car key to my thigh...
Gored by the climacteric of his want, He stalls above me like an elephant.”

(Key: magnolia is an ancient flowering plant; climacteric is like climate, a weather system)

Discuss the poem with relation to husband/wife, sex marriage and then American language. How does the poem work as an American musical condensation? What is American about the poem?