

Mid-Term Study Guide

Review major works, noting key passages and thinking about the context within which we discussed them. You may also find it helpful to review response questions and to reflect on the *Cultural Questions* and consider how they might apply to the texts we have read.

1. *What kinds of behavior, what models of practice, does this work seem to enforce?*
2. *Why might readers at a particular time and place find this work compelling?*
3. *Are there differences between my values and the values implicit in the work I am reading?*
4. *Upon what social understandings does the work depend? [i.e. what ideas about the world, social order, history are taken as a given?]*
5. *Whose freedom of thought or movement might be constrained [or unleashed] implicitly or explicitly by this work?*
6. *What are the larger social structures with which these particular acts of praise or blame might be connected?*
(226)

Types of Questions:

1) Identification - Following the quoted excerpt, write several sentences conveying your recall and understanding by addressing a) **Who** (Author and/or character or speaker), b) **What** (Title of the work, context of the passage), and c) **Why** (the importance of the selection, in terms of theme, plot, or another important aspect of the work).

Prepare by reviewing the works on the revised reading schedule, consulting your notes, and recalling your own marginal notation. Pay special attention, as you review, to elements of style, subject, etc. the differentiate one text from another.

2) Comparison - Respond in paragraph form to the specific question, addressing significant similarities and differences between two texts (or other examples). Your response must articulate a claim (just like an essay) and should be detailed (perhaps with quotations). Avoid answers that merely offer a laundry-list of observations.

Prepare by thinking particularly about similar texts read in a given unit. Note not only obvious similarities but how our discussion distinguished them. Practice brainstorming, outlining, and drafting.

3) Interpretation - Respond in paragraph form to the quotation provided, showing what and how it means. You should offer appropriate inferences about the subject, theme, and/or style; the rationale you provide will be as important as the actual position you take.

Prepare by practicing making inferences and organizing them into cogent paragraphs.