

MOCK MIDTERM: ENGLISH 165A

Choose One. Put your name and the topic number on the cover of the blue book and skip a line in composing your response.

1.) One scholar of Irish literature has commented that with all the commentary on the woes of Ireland, “Poetry and lamentation are virtually synonymous in Irish literature.” Explain what you think the writer means by this and then analyze three poems in light of this assertion. Be sure to compare and contrast the works in their methods and treatment of lamentation; is lamentation perhaps a means to particular ends?

2.) Argue the centrality of Yeats’s achievement in Irish literature. What exactly makes him an *Irish* poet?

3.) One scholar has argued that Irish poets seem “incapable of rendering experience in abstract terms; their minds veer inflexibly to the concrete and specific.” Analyze the pertinence of these remarks in three of the poems we have read. Be sure to support your assertions with specific evidence.

N.B.

Remember that your job is to analyze the material you select. Extensive summary is unnecessary; if necessary, summarize selectively and with a clear purpose. Avoid sweeping generalizations and always use concrete evidence to support assertions and initiate analysis.