

RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AREA EXAMINATION

SPRING 2008

Instructions to the Candidate:

This Area Examination in the Literature of the Restoration and Eighteenth Century consists of four parts.

Part I covers the period as a whole, 1660-1800.

Part II covers the chosen subperiod, 1750-1800.

Part III covers the chosen genre, medical histories, essay and treatises.

Part IV covers the chosen writer, Tobias Smollett.

The examination gives you, in each of its four parts, a choice among three questions. Answer **only one** of the three options in each part.

Part one is worth 40%. Parts two, three and four are **each** worth 20%.

Time allowed: 4 hours

Part I. 1660 – 1800: (40% - choose *one* option)

1. To what extent does the development of the novel parallel the development of empirical science? Do other genres participate in this engagement, in similar or different ways? Discuss with reference to at least six works drawn from throughout the period as a whole.
2. If you were asked to teach a Restoration and Eighteenth Century course that was thematically organized, what theme would you choose to represent the period? What main texts would you focus on, and what would they contribute to the theme? Refer to at least six works drawn from throughout the period as a whole.
3. Literature of the period 1660-1800 is often presented as focused on realism and satire, the mock-heroic and the picaresque. In what ways, though, was this an age of romance in the literary sense? Discuss this question with reference to at least six works drawn from throughout the period as a whole.

Part II. 1750 - 1800: (20% - choose *one* option)

1. Discuss the, cultural and aesthetic aspects of sensibility, and their interrelationship, with reference to the works of at least three authors from the period 1750 - 1800.
2. Discuss the role of advocacy or polemic in the works of at least three authors from the period 1750-1800.
3. What is the relationship between virtue and knowledge as expressed in the writing of the period? Discuss with reference to the works of at least three authors from the period 1750 - 1800.

Part III. Genre: Medical histories, essay and treatises (20% - choose *one* option)

1. In what ways does the medicine of the humours become displaced by empirical medicine, and in what ways does it continue to subsist? How do these paradigms affect concepts of health and illness, and / or medical authority and patient agency?
2. Michel Foucault, in The Birth of the Clinic, famously describes a break in the formation of medical knowledge at the end of the eighteenth century. What historical developments, if any, are evident in the texts of your chosen genre?
3. Provide a taxonomy of the different kinds of medical writing on your list, and describe the significance of the different rhetorics that are present.

Part IV. Emphasis on an individual author: Tobias Smollett (20% - choose *one* option)

1. Smollett's picaresque and social interests are clear in his fiction. How important to his work is writing as an aesthetic craft?
2. Smollett is usually viewed as a peripheral novelist with one important work. Mount a defence of his centrality in light of at least three novels other than Humphrey Clinker.
3. Discuss the function and importance of physiognomy and bodily description in Smollett. To what extent is the body legible, and what does it signify?