

Englit 1175: Nineteenth-Century British Literature
Review Guide for Midterm Exam 1
Exam: Fri. 9/22 in class. (Closed book/notes)

Review all our assigned readings to this point

Topics in red on this guide are tentative: they'll appear on the exam if we cover them in class these next few periods (9/15- 9/20)

Expect to answer questions by writing out your own answers in an exam booklet that I'll provide: For example, I may ask you to explain a concept, and describe an example from a reading we've covered so far. You write out your explanation in a phrase or two, or a couple of sentences, and give your example.

There will be questions on ideas / topics as well as a series of "Passage ID" questions (explained below):

Passage IDs: I present you passages from poems we've read from the beginning of class through F 9/19, and ONLY passages of poems that we have discussed in class. You do two things:

- 1) Identify the poet, and
- 2) Answer a question about something in the passage that we covered.

Passages could be by Anna Barbauld, William Blake, Robert Southey, Charlotte Smith, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth

Key terms, Issues, and concepts: As you review the concepts in the list below, a great study strategy is for you to look up and write out notes on each: In which readings are these significant, and how are they significant?

Sciences—investigations/discoveries: (which readings are connected with these, and how?)

Joseph Priestley's experiments with oxygen on mice,

studies of atmospheric gasses / density: (hot air balloons)

Astronomy: the universe, the world / moons / planets in orbit: which poets reflect on this?

Revolutions—American (1776-1783); French (1789 – 1790s); War with France (1790s - 1810s)

--experience of time and transition:

--concept of "revolution": Intellectual/philosophical, overturning paradigms. long **cycles** of time. Cyclical nature of the universe/nature: cycles of planets—predictable patterns

--Millennialism / apocalypse ideas: biblical imagery associated with revolution?

--which writers / texts have we discussed in connection with Revolution? What was the connection?

mock epic (what is it, who wrote one, what was it about?)

illuminated poems / acid-relief etching

Blake's concept of contraries

slavery, abolition movement: views on Christianity? images? views of racial difference? views of racial equality?

child labor—reflected in which writings?

"Romanticism" (vs. "Enlightenment")

narrator or speaker of a poem, relation to audience? --"I" speakers involved in action of poem? (which poems and how?)

sonnet (what is it? Who was writing sonnets?)

Characteristic "turn" or volta: practice locating these in sonnets we've read.)

ode (what is it? **Pindaric** ode: What was this, and how did Wordsworth revive it in the "Intimations of Immortality" ode?)

the sublime vs. the beautiful: Are these contrary concepts? Be familiar with their definitions and how they relate. How was Kant's philosophy of the sublime different from Burke's? Examples of poets/readings so far that are definitely working with these concepts?

Eolian Harp : what is an Aeolian harp? How does Coleridge apply it in two poems—how different are they?

frame / framing device

genial (we're covering this with Wordsworth and Coleridge and odes) How do these odes reply to each other in their interest in this concept?

* How did Coleridge's "Dejection an Ode" reply to Wordsworth's "Intimations" ode?

opium (with Coleridge: "Pains of Sleep"): issues/ understanding of opium's effects?