

English 10
Review #1 for midterm

The English midterm is 90 minutes in length.

You will be asked to leave your phone in the front of the exam room; you should not be wearing a hoodie anyway, but hoodies are especially forbidden in the exam. You are discouraged from leaving the exam room during the exam; plan ahead.

Vocabulary. (20 minutes, roughly 7 items in each section, 25% of total score)
You'll be asked to find synonyms, think of antonyms, define word parts, derive derivatives, and fill in sentences, as usual.

II. Short answer. (25 minutes, 4 of 5 quotations, 25% of total score)
You'll be asked to identify speaker, context, and significance of passages from *Frankenstein* and *The Odyssey*. You should review the stories as you prepare the essay, below, and we'll do some practice quotations as the test gets closer. Certainly, if you haven't read any of the stories well, find the time to do that.

III. Essay. (45 minutes, 50% of total score)
Here are three prompts. Prepare two of them, as two of them will appear on the exam, and you'll have to write one essay. You may not bring any materials into the exam with you, so you won't be required to quote text. Your essay should feature a good introduction with a thesis statement in the thesis position, two or three body paragraphs with good topic sentences and evidence, and a short conclusion that redefines the thesis in light of the whole of the essay.

1. Hubris. Consider the role of hubris in the stories of Victor Frankenstein and Odysseus. When do moments of over-weening pride emerge? What do they mean? What are their outcomes? What do the characters learn over the course of their stories about the desire for fame and/or about an incorrect idea of the role of man relative to the gods? It is easy to write a slap-dash essay that covers the broad ideas; excellent essays will find particular insights that add value to our readings of these texts.

2. Monstrosity. C.P. Cavafy, in his poem "Ithaka," suggests one's monsters are all of one's own making. How are the monsters in both texts fixtures of the creators' own psychologies? In the case of Frankenstein, it is easy to see how the creature embodies Victor's obsessions, but how does the story of the creature himself speak to Victor's desires, concerns, and failings? What does Victor's approach to his monster reveal about his character? Further, in Odysseus' case, what do the monsters Odysseus encounters embody of Odysseus's own psychology? What does Odysseus's approach to the monsters reveal about him? How do the works use this theme to support their particular projects?

3. The journey. While Odysseus spends his epic of twists and turns trying to return home, Victor's journey takes him in a similarly circuitous path, culminating in a trip to the Arctic. What is the relationship of the overall mappings of the journeys to the characters' stories and their themes? What tests do the heroes meet along the way, and what successes or failures do they find? What does the archetype of the journey add to your overall readings of the works?