

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 5 items in each section, 15% 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, 35% of total score)

You'll be asked to identify speaker, context, and significance of passages from *Confessions*, *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the "Allegory of the Cave," and the excerpts of Chaucer we have read. You should review the texts 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 texts 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. The quest. A quest is a journey undertaken for a particular stated purpose, but whatever the stated purpose of a quest may be, the real purpose is self-knowledge. Use *Confessions*, *Beowulf*, and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* to defend this claim with as much specificity as you can, displaying your mastery of the texts. It would be easy to write a mediocre essay that covers the ground in a general way, pointing out the features of the quest and the lessons learned, but the best essays will offer a specific thesis on this issue and defend it.

2. Humility. Several of the characters we have studied this semester learn humility over their stories. Write a thesis, spanning the three texts, that leads to exploration of the ways the texts promulgate this value; this thesis should contain a specific argument that leads to original an interesting discussion.

3. Community. What is the importance of community to the success of the various heroes? Since all the heroes are in motion geographically, the communities sometimes shift, allowing for the play of new communities and more long-standing relationships. Consider three texts and see what interesting central argument you can derive. Feel free to make decisions as you carve out your thesis; just make sure the thesis you support is specific, substantial, and exigent.