1 ENG3423 Høst 2017

The exam response should constitute around **10-12 pages (4000 words)** total.

**Section A** of the exam is a close critical analysis of a passage from a text studied in the first half of the course. Section A is worth 20% of your total mark, so should constitute around **800-1000** words of your final response.

**Section B** requires you to write an essay in response to a text-specific question, on a text studied in the second half of the course. Section B is worth 80% of your total mark and should constitute around **3000-3200** words.

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**Section A (800-1000 words) Close Critical Analysis:**

Write a close critical analysis of the following passage, including consideration of its relationship to, or representation of, the city. Make sure you have a clear line of argument running through your answer: for example, it would be helpful to outline the central theme(s) of your chosen passage in your introduction, and then (in subsequent sections of your answer) to trace the ways in which the formal elements of the text (language, structure etc.) advance its theme(s).

Your discussion should attend to language, structure, genre, and theme; you may also choose to discuss its relation to the text as a whole and/or its historical moment, but you should focus in the main on the extract itself.

**Tobias Smollett, The Expedition of Humphry Clinker (1771)**

To Dr Lewis

This place is but four miles from Edinburgh, towards which we proceeded along the sea-shore, upon a firm bottom of smooth sand, which the tide had left uncovered in its retreat—Edinburgh, from this avenue, is not seen to much advantage—We had only an imperfect view of the Castle and upper parts of the town, which varied incessantly according to the inflexions of the road, and exhibited the appearance of detached spires and turrets, belonging to some magnificent edifice in ruins. The palace of Holyrood house stands on the left, as you enter the Canon-gate—This is a street continued from hence to the gate called Nether Bow, which is now taken away; so that there is no interruption for a long mile, from the bottom to the top of the hill on which the castle stands in a most imperial situation—Considering its fine pavement, its width, and the lofty houses on each side, this would be undoubtedly one of the noblest streets in Europe, if an ugly mass of mean buildings, called the Lucken-Booths, had not thrust itself, by what accident I know not, into the middle of the way, like Middle-Row in Holborn. The city stands upon two hills, and the bottom between them; and, with all its defects, may very well pass for the capital of a moderate kingdom.—It is full of people, and continually resounds with the noise of coaches and other carriages, for luxury as well as commerce. As far as I can perceive, here is no want of provisions—The beef and mutton are as delicate here as in Wales; the sea affords plenty of good fish; the bread is remarkably fine; and the water is excellent, though I’m afraid not in sufficient quantity to answer all the purposes of cleanliness and convenience; articles in which, it must be allowed, our fellow-subjects are a little defective—The water is brought in leaden pipes from a mountain in the neighbourhood, to a cistern on the Castle-hill, from whence it is distributed to public conduits in different parts of the city. From these it is
seven, and eight pairs of stairs, for the use of particular families—Every story is a complete house, occupied by a separate family; and the stair being common to them all, is generally left in a very filthy condition; a man must tread with greatcircumspection to get safe housed with unpolluted shoes—Nothing can form a stronger contrast, than the difference betwixt the outside and inside of the door, for the good-women of this metropolis are remarkably nice in the ornaments and propriety of their apartments, as if they were resolved to transfer the imputation from the individual to the public. You are no stranger to their method of discharging all their impurities from their windows, at a certain hour of the night, as the custom is in Spain, Portugal, and some parts of France and Italy—A practice to which I can by no means be reconciled; for notwithstanding all the care that is taken by their scavengers to remove this nuisance every morning by break of day, enough still remains to offend the eyes, as well as other organs of those whom use has not hardened against all delicacy of sensation.

The inhabitants seem insensible to these impressions, and are apt to imagine the disgust that we avow is little better than affectation; but they ought to have some compassion for strangers, who have not been used to this kind of sufferance; and consider, whether it may not be worth while to take some pains to vindicate themselves from the reproach that, on this account, they bear among their neighbours. As to the surprising height of their houses, it is absurd in many respects; but in one particular light I cannot view it without horror; that is, the dreadful situation of all the families above, in case the common staircase should be rendered impassable by a fire in the lower stories—In order to prevent the shocking consequences that must attend such an accident, it would be a right measure to open doors of communication from one house to another, on every story, by which the people might fly from such a terrible visitation.

In all parts of the world, we see the force of habit prevailing over all the dictates of convenience and sagacity. All the people of business at Edinburgh, and even the genteel company, may be seen standing in crowds every day, from one to two in the afternoon, in the open street, at a place where formerly stood a market-cross, which (by the bye) was a curious piece of Gothic architecture, still to be seen in lord Sommerville’s garden in this neighbourhood—I say, the people stand in the open street from the force of custom, rather than move a few yards to an Exchange that stands empty on one side, or to the Parliament-close on the other, which is a noble square adorned with a fine equestrian statue of king Charles II.—The company thus assembled, are entertained with a variety of tunes, played upon a set of bells, fixed in a steeple hard by—As these bells are well-toned, and the musician, who has a salary from the city, for playing upon them with keys, is no bad performer, the entertainment is really agreeable, and very striking to the ears of a stranger.

The public inns of Edinburgh are still worse than those of London; but by means of a worthy gentleman, to whom I was recommended, we have got decent lodgings in the house of a widow gentlewoman of the name of Lockhart; and here I shall stay until I have seen every thing that is remarkable in and about this capital. I now begin to feel the good effects of exercise—I eat like a farmer, sleep from mid-night till eight in the morning without interruption, and enjoy a constant tide of spirits, equally distant from inanition and excess; but whatever ebbs or flows my constitution may undergo, my heart will still declare that I am,

Dear Lewis. Your affectionate friend and servant. MATT. BRAMBLE EDR. July 18.
Section B (3000-3200 words) Essay Response:
Write an essay in response to ONE of the following questions. Your answer should discuss ONE text from the second half of the course:

**Dickens, Sketches by Boz**

1. Discuss in what ways, and to what ends, the observer-narrator in Dickens’s *Sketches by Boz* is a constructed character rather than an objective voice.

OR,

2. “[T]he pain and ugliness of modern urban life … is normally kept at bay in Boz’s vision.” [EPSTEIN NORD]
   In the light of this statement, discuss to what extent *Sketches by Boz* represents a sanitised middle-class version of the city of London.

**Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**

1. In what ways, and to what ends, does *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* represent London as “the cesspool of Empire” (Siddiqui)?

   OR,

2. Discuss the ways in which Sherlock Holmes offers an illusion of scientific control over an increasingly unknowable urban space.

**Muriel Spark, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

1. To what extent, and in what ways, is an Edinburgh identity associated with religious identity in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*?

   OR,

2. In what ways, and to what ends, is the city of Edinburgh represented as a city of duality in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*?

**Paul Auster, ‘City of Glass’ from New York Trilogy**

1. Discuss the ways in which ‘City of Glass’ re-constructs the genre of urban detective fiction to fit a postmodern urban experience.

   OR,

2. To what ends, and in what ways, does ‘City of Glass’ challenge and/or reinforce the notion of difference, or individualism, in urban life?
Last opp filen her. Maks én fil.

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Velg fil for opplasting

Maks poeng: 10