

# KEY - culture

## A ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2016 – NMGr. programme

### I. Literary and Cultural Theory

1) Identify the tropes or figures highlighted and numbered.

5 points

James Weldon Johnson, “O Black and Unknown Bards”

O black and unknown bards of long ago, **A**

How came your lips to touch the sacred fire? **B**

How, in your darkness, did you come to know **A**

The power and beauty of the minstrel’s lyre? **B**

Who first from midst his bonds lifted his eyes? **C**

Who first from **(1)** out the still watch, lone and long,

**D**

Feeling the ancient faith of prophets rise **C**

Within his dark-kept soul, burst into song? **D**

Heart of what slave poured out such melody

As “Steal away to Jesus”? On its strains

His spirit must have nightly floated free,

Though still about his hands he felt his chains.

Who heard great “Jordan roll”? Whose starward eye

Saw chariot “swing low”? And who was he

That breathed that comforting, melodic sigh,

“Nobody knows de trouble I see”?

What merely living clod, what captive thing,

Could up toward God through all its darkness grope,

And find within its deadened heart to sing

These **songs of sorrow (2)**, love and faith, and hope?

How did it catch that subtle undertone,

That note in music heard not with the ears?

How sound the elusive reed so seldom blown,

Which stirs the soul or melts the heart to tears.

Not that great German master in his dream

Of harmonies that thundered amongst the stars

At the creation, ever heard a theme

Nobler than “Go down, Moses.” Mark its bars

How **like a mighty trumpet-call (3)** they stir

The blood. Such are the notes that men have sung

Going to valorous deeds; such tones there were

That helped make history when Time was young.

There is a wide, wide wonder in it all,

That from degraded rest and servile toil

The fiery spirit of the seer should call

These simple children of the sun and soil.

O black slave singers, gone, forgot, unfamed,

You—you alone, of all the long, long line

Of those who’ve sung untaught, unknown, unnamed,

Have stretched out upward, seeking the divine.

You sang not deeds of heroes or of kings;

No chant of bloody war, no exulting pean

Of arms-won triumphs; but your humble strings

You touched in chord with music empyrean.

You sang far better than you knew; the songs

That for your listeners’ hungry hearts sufficed

Still live,—but more than this to you belongs:

You sang **a race from wood and stone (4)** to Christ.

1) anaphora

2) alliteration

3) simile

4) metaphor

Identify the rhyme-structure of the first stanza by putting the same letters of the alphabet to line-endings that rhyme with each other. Example:

Therefore, since the world has still  
Much good, but much less good than ill,  
And while the sun and moon endure  
Luck’s a chance, but trouble’s sure,  
I’d face it as a wise man would,  
And train for ill and not for good.

A  
A  
B  
B  
C  
C

2) Match the name of the theoretician with the concept he or she is known for.

5 points

John Keats

negative capability

Francis Bacon

feigned history

Edmund Burke

taste

Horace

dulce et utile

Aristotle

mimesis

## British Culture and History

1) Match the authors with the movements or periods: (9 points)

**Modernism:** Katherine Mansfield, James Joyce

**Victorian Era:** Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Emily Brontë

**Romanticism:** William Wordsworth

**Renaissance:** Philip Sidney, Lady Mary Wroth, Christopher Marlowe

2) Which British monarch is particularly associated with the Renaissance? (2 points)

**Queen Elizabeth I**

3) Which of the following writers did NOT live under the reign of this monarch? (2 points)

**Geoffrey Chaucer**

**George Gordon Byron**

4) Which British monarch was executed in 1649? Comment on the importance of this event. (4 points)

**Charles I; the beginning of modern justice, for the first time a royalty was judged by commoners, law was above everybody, the rule of law**

5) Has there ever been a republic on the British Isles? If yes, when? (3 points)

**Yes, during the Commonwealth, or the Interregnum 1649-1660**

## American Culture and History

1) Match the authors with the works of art. (10 points – 1 point each)

**1: b**

**6: h**

**2: f**

**7: d**

**3: j**

**8: g**

**4: c**

**9: e**

**5: a**

**10: i**

2) Choose one answer: (2 points each – 10 points)

**1: C**

**2: B**

**3: C**

**4: D**

**5: B**