

THIS IS THE UPDATED VERSION WITH THE QUESTION ON PROVIDENTIALISM

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Exam

Directions: I will select six out of the following topics/questions. For each, write a two chunk paragraph. Make sure that your topic sentence clearly relates to or answers the topic/question; then, use your chunks to develop and support your topic sentence. This will be open-book but not open note.

- How do Providentialism and Chance collide in the novel? How does Providence work in a novel where so much seems to happen accidentally? Select two episodes where Providence or Chance seems to govern and explain why.
- How does Twain support Christian values while satirizing the Bible and the mis-reading of it?
- How does Twain condemn and satirize Feudal Values and the Old South? Why does he attack a romanticized view of the Old South?
- What does Twain show about the power of stories to shape people's understanding of the world? What does this suggest about the power of literature in our lives?
- How does Twain satirize Shakespeare? Why does he do this?
- Discuss the theme of sacrifice in *Huckleberry Finn*. How do Huck and Jim make key sacrifices for each other?
- Discuss the theme of lying in *Huckleberry Finn*. Who lies and why? Does Twain make it seem that some lies are good while others are bad?
- Explain *Huckleberry Finn* as a *bildungsroman*. Select two episodes that are central to Huck's coming of age and explain their importance to Huck's moral development and/or the development of American culture.
- Is Jim the "magic negro?" Does Twain give him enough agency and subjectivity to be an independent character with a full identity, or is he just Huck's sidekick helper who is only an object to help the novel's protagonist?
- How do superstition and religion figure into the novel? Does Twain mark a clear division between superstition and religion or does he blur the two?
- Does anyone own the word "nigger?" Is it a word that should be reserved for use by certain groups of people but not others?
- Is it acceptable to assign a novel that contains the word "fuck" to high school students? Is it acceptable to assign a novel that contains the word "nigger" to high school students? Why for each? And finally should *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* continue to be taught at Coronado High School?

Finally: it may help you to write a brief (three to eight words per spot) outline for each answer to review at the beginning of class. I advise using this outline model:

- Topic/Topic Sentence of PP
 - a. CD/quote for chunk 1
 - i. CM
 - ii. CM
 - b. CD/quote for chunk 2
 - i. CM
 - ii. CM

c. CD/quote for chunk 3 (optional)

i. CM

ii. CM

Concluding Sentence