

## Example Essay Questions

Choose one of the following questions and write an essay in answer that is at least 1,500 words (about 5 pages). You should use your anthology for quotations and other supporting material, but do not use any other outside sources. You may only choose texts that we have read prior to the exam due date. Your essay must be in MLA format. Be sure to put the number of the question you are answering below your name on the first page of your essay.

1) The Victorians often used discourses of imperialism and evolution to represent both class and gender cultural anxieties. Compare and contrast two texts that mobilize imperialism or evolution (or both) to work out either class or gender issues (i.e. you must choose to write on either class or gender, but not both).

2) Science and religion often came into bitter conflict for some Victorian writers, and yet also harmonized for others. Choose two works that deal with the relationship between science and religion. Remember several of the works we have read deal with this issue in some way, not just those in the "Evolution" section. Write an essay comparing and contrasting the different ways in which this tension is represented in the works.

3) For the Victorians, the imperial project was as much about defining England and English-ness as it was defining the colonial other. Compare and contrast two works that deal with Victorian England's interactions with colonial others and discuss how they collude with and/or challenge this discourse of nationalism. Remember almost all of the works we have read deal with this issue in some way, not just those in the "Empire and National Identity" section. Be sure to connect the individual author's views with larger Victorian discourses of imperialism.