Essay Questions:
Directions: Please answer the following essay questions. Your answer should have a thesis statement (a major argument you would like to make). You should give examples and details from literary works to support your argument.

1. Pilgrimage is a conventional framework in medieval literature. Compare the use of pilgrimage as a framework in William Langland’s *Piers Plowman*, Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*, and the anonymous *Everyman*. (25%)

2. The Elizabethan culture and literature are very much shaped by the cult of Queen Elizabeth. Use William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Edmund Spencer’s *The Faerie Queene* as examples to illustrate idolatry and courtship in Elizabethan culture and literature. (25%)

3. In *Paradise Lost*, John Milton goes beyond his sources, *Genesis*, to explore the consequences of the Fall from the perspective of human sexuality. How does Milton discuss the nature of women as compared to men? Do you think it’s justifiable to label Milton as a misogynist? (25%)

4. The Restoration and the early eighteenth century were times when the Englishmen started to have oversea voyages and foreign exploration. Gothic romances and novels of various types in this period dedicated to gratify the Englishmen’s ambition as well as imagination in sea travels and colonial expedition. Use one novel of this period to illustrate how it can be viewed as a travelogue. (25%)
I. Reading Comprehension (60%)

(A) The increasing cost of energy has caused many companies to make permanent changes in their offices. On a small scale, office managers are purchasing energy-efficient office machines and encouraging recycling programs to cut energy costs. On a larger scale, architects and builders are responding to the demands of companies for more energy-efficient buildings.

Buildings constructed or renovated in the last few years have incorporated energy-saving measures. Office maintenance workers have sealed cracks around windows and doors. Builders have installed sets of double doors to reduce the exchange of indoor and outdoor air when doors are opened.

This has reduced transfer of air in and out of the building. While it has had cost-saving benefits, it has caused personnel-related costs such as increased employee absences due to illness. Since the interior air is recirculated and little fresh air is allowed in, everyday contaminants such as dust and germs remain in the air. Employees in energy-efficient buildings breathe the same air again and again. They suffer from an increase in headaches, colds, dry skins, and dry throats, and in severe cases respiratory problems.

1. Why was the construction of office building changed?
   (A) To make construction easier.
   (B) To use better building materials.
   (C) To reduce energy consumption.
   (D) To make the offices more attractive.

2. How is construction different now?
   (A) Offices have fewer entrances.
   (B) Windows and doors fit tightly.
   (C) Air conditioning has been eliminated.
   (D) Sprinkler systems are used.

3. What unexpected problem has this caused?
   (A) It takes longer to enter the building.
   (B) Employees are not warm enough.
   (C) Offices cannot be cleaned.
   (D) More workers take sick leave.

4. What illness increased among workers in these buildings?
   (A) Headaches     (B) Muscle aches
   (C) Rashes      (D) Nausea
Dear Fellow Besco Stockholder:

An Australian corporation controlled by J.B. Mudridge has begun a last-minute proxy fight to get you to vote against certain important proposals which your Board has unanimously approved and recommended for your support. These proposals were forwarded to you last month as required by our bylaws. We believe these proposals are in your best interests as well as those of your company.

This year alone, more than a hundred public companies adopted similar measures. Your directors have a fiduciary duty to all Besco stockholders. With this in mind, they have recommended measures to protect your interests and to maximize your stock values.

We believe that your support of our proposals will assist your Board in attaining this important goal. Please go to our website, and vote in favor of our proposals. We appreciate your continued trust and support.

Sincerely,
Margaret C. Jennings.

5. What kind of duty does Besco have to the stockholder?
   (A) Unique      (B) Judicial
   (C) Pecuniary     (D) Relating to trust

6. What does Besco share with the other public companies?
   (A) Similar measures    (B) Company bylaws
   (C) Stock options       (D) Australian support

7. Mudridge wants to get the votes of which of the following people?
   (A) The Board of Directors   (B) Those who cannot be at the meeting
   (C) The Australian electorate  (D) Those stockholders in the proximity of Australia

8. What makes the Board apprehensive?
   (A) Their unanimous decision       (B) Mudridge resigning
   (C) Losing control                 (D) Takeover by a public company

(C) The pollen count hit a record high today. It was last this high ten years ago. The lack of precipitation has caused the pollen to remain in the air longer. This means millions of area residents will have difficulty breathing and will experience symptoms similar to a cold to bronchitis. No new rain is expected for the next two weeks; those affected are advised to stay in air-conditioned environments and wear a protective mask when outside. Tomorrow the count will be even higher.

9. What is this passage supposed to be?
   (A) Recorded announcements      (B) Weather reports
10. What is the problem?
   (A) Excessive rainfall.    (B) The flu virus. 
   (C) A broken air conditioner. (D) A high pollen count.

11. What prolong the problem?
   (A) Lack of rain.      (B) Time.
   (C) Cold sufferers.     (D) Air-conditioning.

12. When will the problem abate?
   (A) By today.      (B) By tomorrow.
   (C) In two weeks.   (D) In ten years.

13. What advice does the announcement give?
   (A) Stay outdoors.     (B) Take frequent showers.
   (C) Breathe deeply.   (D) Wear a mask outside

14. Which one of the following is NOT covered by the term “eligible dependent”?
   (A) A stepchild      (B) An unmarried child
   (C) Another employee (D) An adopted child

15. Who is included for coverage in this definition?
   (A) A young child who lives at home
   (B) A grown child who has a job and lives alone
   (C) A wife is also an insured employee
   (D) A husband who is also an insured employee
II. Summary and Arguments (40%)
Please read the article and answer the following three questions:

A serious problem faces America today, a problem of such grave importance that our very existence as a nation is threatened. We must either cleanse our schools of evil-minded books, or we must either reconcile ourselves to seeing our children become welfare moochers and homeless bums.

History has shown time and time again that placement of immoral books in our schools is part of insidious plot designed to weaken the moral fiber of our youth from coast to coast. In Wettuckett, Ohio, for example, the year after books by Mark Twain, such as *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*, were introduced into the school library by liberal free-thinkers and radicals, the number of students cutting classes rose by 6 percent. And in that same year, the number of high school seniors going on to college dropped from thirty to twenty-two.

The reason for this could either be a natural decline in intelligence and morals or the influence of those dirty books that teach our beloved children disrespect and irresponsibility. Since there is no evidence to suggest a natural decline, the conclusion is inescapable: once our children read about Twain’s characters skipping school and running away from home, they had to do likewise. If they hadn’t read about such undesirable characters as Huckleberry Finn, our innocent children would never have behaved in those ways.

Now, I am a simple man, a plain old farm boy – the pseudo-intellectuals call me redneck just like they call you folks. But I can assure you that, redneck or not, I’ve got the guts to fight moral decay everywhere I find it, and I urge you to do the same. For this reason I want all you good folks to come to the ban-the-books rally this Friday so we can talk it over. I promise you all you right-thinking neighbors will be here.

(From *Steps to Writing Well*)

1. What is the possible title of this article? Please create an appropriate title for this article. (5%)
2. What is the author’s main idea and what is s/he arguing for? Please summarize the main points in 150 words. (15%)
3. Are you for or against the authors’ idea? Please state your argumentation as clearly as possible. (20%)