

EN2E7/EN3E7 Crime Fiction, Nation, and Empire: Summative Essay 1

GUIDELINES / RUBRIC

- ❖ **Deadline:** One electronic WORD DOC (not pdf) should be **submitted on TABULA by 12pm on Thursday week 5 of Term 2** (8th Feb 2024 – double-check tabula)
 - ❖ **INTERMEDIATES [EN2E7] 1 X 2500-word essay** in response to ONE of the 12 primary source prompts below.
 - ❖ **FINALISTS [EN3E7] 1 X 3000-word essay** in response to ONE of the 12 primary source prompts below.
 - ❖ **PRIMARY TEXTS:** You may refer to and compare in your essays any of the following combinations studied from the start of term 1 (*Bleak House*) up to Term 2, week 3 (Chesterton's Father Brown):

TWO NOVELS
OR
ONE NOVEL and TWO short stories (mix of authors is fine)
OR
TWO – FOUR short stories (mix of authors is fine)
 - ❖ **You may come up with your own title if you wish but it must be clear which prompt you are responding to (number it / reproduce the prompt followed by your question title) or just use the prompt source as a title.** Either way, use the themes / language / context of the source to help narrow down your focus and create a specific thesis statement / argument.
 - ❖ **You must engage with a range of secondary criticism** from beyond the required reading. You should also contextualise / investigate your chosen primary source further to see if that adds to your analysis and **find at least one other primary (i.e. historical) source(s)** to aid your analysis.
 - ❖ **You should** deconstruct / close-read / annotate the primary source, drawing out as many key themes / ideas / analyses as possible and from that decide which of those to put in dialogue with your chosen primary texts.
 - ❖ Speak to your seminar tutor in [office hours](#) or by email about your ideas.
-
- ❖ Please make sure that you are aware of and follow the [department guidelines](#) for the presentation of essays and of the [regulations on plagiarism](#).
 - ❖ Use [MLA or MHRA formatting](#). See also, further departmental resources on essay and research skills on our [Academic Writing Moodle](#).
 - ❖ [Extensions](#) are to be requested in advance of the deadline **via Tabula** (either next to the assignment for a specific extension over 5 working days with evidence/ Reasonable Adjustments, or using the separate “self-certify” button under your “Personal Circumstances” tab for 5 working days no questions asked).

1. From W.H. Wills, "[The Modern Science of Thief-Taking](#)", *Household Words*, vol. I, No. 16, 13 July 1850, 368-372 (368).

"If thieving be an Art (and who denies that its more subtle and delicate branches deserve to be ranked as one of the Fine Arts?), thieftaking is a Science. All the thief's ingenuity; all his knowledge of human nature; all his courage; all his coolness; all his imperturbable powers of face; all his nice discrimination in reading the countenances of other people; all his manual and digital dexterity; all his fertility in expedients, and promptitude in acting upon them; all his Protean cleverness of disguise and capability of counterfeiting every sort and condition of distress; together with a great deal more patience, and the additional qualification, integrity, are demanded for the higher branches of thief-taking [...] Thus the Detective Police, of which we hear so much, consists of only forty-two individuals, whose duty it is to wear no uniform, and to perform the most difficult operations of their craft. They have not only to counteract the machinations of every sort of rascal whose only means of existence is avowed rascality, but to clear up family mysteries, the investigation of which demands the utmost delicacy and tact."

2. From Sir Edward Sullivan, [Ten Chapters on Social Reform](#). United Kingdom, Edward Stanford, 1868, p.103.

"England boasts of her civilization, of her religion, of her social and moral excellence. What a farce! Why here, in her very midst, is a community, and a large and wealthy and influential one too, not a pauper community, urged by want and poverty to the commission of crime; but a community of intelligent, highly paid operatives, who are absolutely without civilization; without religion; without social or moral instruction; without even hypocrisy, the ordinary homage that vice pays to virtue! In defiance of every law of God and man, they declare their approval of murder, so long as their supposed interests are furthered by it. What a parody on common sense to send missionaries to the far country to civilize the heathen in Africa and India, whilst in England are hundreds of thousands, aye millions, of heathens more fierce and unrelenting than any that bow down in the temple of Siva, or join in the bloody rites of Dahomey!"

3. From Thomas Archer, [The Terrible Sights of London](#), London. S. Rivers, 1870, p.15.

"We frequently hear of deserted infants being found on door-steps or exposed to disease and death, from which they are sometimes saved by being taken by the police to the nearest union workhouse, where the officials will endeavour to discover and punish the mother [...] The law, in its terrible determination to discountenance immorality, does nothing whatever to mitigate the misery of the mother of an 'illegitimate' child [...] We demand everything from the woman, nothing from the man. She has either to resist with unassailable virtue all the temptations to which she may be exposed, or give up everything; forfeit all her claims upon society, as well as all means of redress, and become outcast from the presence even of Justice itself."

4. From "[Insanity and Crime](#)", *John Bull*, vol. XXXII, no. 1,636, 19 Apr. 1852, p. 249.

"We must still express our firm conviction that, in the great majority of cases, there is a vast deal of moral guilt connected with insanity, both temporary as well as permanent, real as well as affected; and that the limits of just retribution would not be transgressed, either by the punishment of criminal acts, or by the rigorous coercion of dangerous lunatics, where a long career of moral delinquency or perverseness, conscious but unchecked, has at last produced either criminal excesses, or a state of mind unable to contend successfully against criminal, albeit insane, impulses. And further we must express our conviction that mercy is altogether misplaced, which, while it exempts the individual from the just and necessary punishment of his own evil ways, withdraws from society at large that protection which it is the first object of law and government to secure to all."

5. From "[THE KOH-I-NOOR, OR MOUNTAIN OF LIGHT](#)." *Leader and Saturday Analyst*, vol. 1, no. 15, 1850, p. 342.

"After symbolizing the revolutions of ten generations by its passage from one conqueror to another, the celebrated Koh-i-noor, the great diamond of the East, comes now, in the third centenary of its discovery, as the forfeit of oriental faithlessness and the prize of Saxon valour, to the distant shores of England. In the steam sloop *Medea*, which arrived at Portsmouth [*sic*] the other day, came Major Mackeson, to whose care has been entrusted the custody of the *Mountain of Light*, as the hyperbolic Asiatics have chosen to call it [...] Such is the extraordinary jewel which in virtue of conquest and sovereignty has passed into the possession of England. It was prudently secured among the few remaining valuables of the Lahore Treasury at the commencement of the last insurrection, and, although even its nominal value would be inadequate compensation for the cost of the Sikh wars, the people of India will, no doubt, look upon its acquisition as a fitting symbol of that supremacy which we have won."

6. From Joseph Whitaker Stapleton, [The Great Crime of 1860: Being a Summary of the Facts Relating to the Murder Committed at Road, a Critical Review of Its Social and Scientific Aspects, and an Authorized Account of the Family](#). United Kingdom, E. Marlborough, 1861, p.4.

"Turn then to the 'middle class' and to their children, for whom no juvenile reformatory is open or is asked. Cut off from the rude and thorny briars of society, they have been grafted upon the trim and cultivated rose-trees that bloom in the parterres of suburban respectability, and grow up, side by side, with modern refinement, modern civilization, modern Christianity. Think of the human hearts that pulsate there; of the human passions that riot there; of the revelations made in the divorce courts, or unveiled before stipendiary magistrates; of family wrongs, of family conflicts, of family disgraces, covered over only by the miserable tinsel of gentility; flashing out here and there, fitfully, into a sudden, devouring, and inextinguishable flame, that burns up and desolates an English home; and, as the smoke hovers over the ruin and hides the light that shines alike on the evil and the good, consider how all this has come to pass."

7. From Margaret Oliphant, "[Sensation Novels](#)", *Blackwood's*, 102 (September 1867), pp.257 – 280 (263).

[Such novels] "brought in the rein of bigamy as an interesting and fashionable crime, which no doubt shows a certain deference to the British relish for law and order. It goes against the seventh commandment, no doubt, but it does it in a legitimate sort of way, and is an invention which could only have been possible to an Englishwoman knowing the attraction of impropriety, and yet loving the shelter of law."

8. From G.E. Mallett, "Finger-Prints Which Have Convicted Criminals". *The Strand*, May 1905, vol. XXIX, no.173, pp.531-535 (531).

"It will probably be of interest, not only to the majority of police forces in the country, but to the public at large, to know that the use of finger-prints has been employed by the Bradford police force now for some eighteen months not only for the identification of criminals, but for the detection of crime. The system has been adopted most extensively in India. It was so successful there that its utilization was recommended for this country. Mr. E. R. Henry, now at the head of the London police, is the chief authority on the subject. Mr. Henry has done much to make the science familiar, and he has had many followers. In a sense Scotland Yard is the headquarters of the finger-print department. The finger-prints of all persons remanded to, or incarcerated in, gaols for certain offences are taken, and records of the impressions are sent to Scotland Yard, where they are registered and preserved."



FIG. 1.—AN OFFICIAL CHART OF FINGER-PRINTS.

9. "Here and There; or Emigration, A Remedy" 15 July 1848, *Punch magazine* (London), p.26.



HERE

AND
OR, EMIGRATION A REMEDY.

THERE;

10. Gustave Doré (illust), "The Bulls-Eye", *London: A Pilgrimage* by Blanchard Jerrold and Gustave Doré. London: Grant & Co., 1872, p.145.



THE BULL'S-EYE.



GOOD NEWS.

"The wife of the Chief Constable of Bradford, having been mainly instrumental in the capture in London of a defaulting gas-manager, we presume that on an early date we may find our muscular sisters joining the police force, and becoming a terror to the g-ntle burg'ar."

12. **"The boy became quite stiff, and stood like a statue, looking into the ink in the hollow of his hand"** by William Jewett (illust.) for first instalment of Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone: A Romance* in *Harper's Weekly* (4 January 1868), p.5.

