**English 12**

**1st Semester Exam Study Guide**

**Directions: Complete the following study guide to fully prepare for your semester exam. If you turn in a COMPLETE study guide on the day of your exam, I will add TWENTY points to your test grade. Answers do NOT have to be in complete sentences. Please answer on a separate sheet of paper.**

**Unit 1: Old English, the Anglo-Saxons, and *Beowulf***

1. Name the 5 groups that invaded England between 500 B.C. and 1066 (pg. 3)
2. Describe Anglo-Saxon society (notes and pgs. 14, 18, and 19)
3. How did England get its name? (pg. 4)
4. What are scops? (pg. 19)
5. How was literature passed down from generation to generation? (pg. 19)
6. What is the *Exeter Book*? Why is it important? (pg. 19)
7. Who is Alfred the Great? What did he do that is so important? (notes and pg. 19)
8. What is a caesura? (pg. 18)
9. What is a kenning? (pg. 18)
10. Describe the mood of Anglo-Saxon poetry (pg. 18)
11. How was *The Wife’s Lament* different from other Anglo-Saxon poems? (pgs. 30-31)
12. What is an elegy? (pg. 18)
13. What is an epic? (pgs. 34 ad 38)
14. Is *Beowulf* a folk epic or a literary epic? (pg.34)
15. What is an epic hero? (pg. 38)
16. What is the Anglo-Saxon meaning of “home”? (pg. 21)
17. What is the setting of the first part of the epic? (pg. 40)
18. How was Grendel conceived? (pg. 42)
19. What has Grendel been doing to the men in Herot? For how long? (pg. 42-43)
20. What qualifications does Beowulf present to Hrothgar which show he is able to take on Grendel? (pgs. 47-48)
21. Once Beowulf defeats Grendel, what trophy is he left with? What does he do with it? (pg. 51)
22. What trophy does Beowulf bring back after defeating Grendel’s mother? (pg. 56)
23. Who is the only soldier who comes to help Beowulf as he is losing his battle with the dragon? (pg. 58)

**Unit 2: Medieval Life, *The Canterbury Tales*, and *The Wife of Bath’s Tale***

1. What is the purpose of the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*? (pg. 90)
2. What is the name of the inn at which the story begins? (pg. 90)
3. Who is the host of the contest? (pg. 90)
4. Who is Thomas a Beckett? (notes and pg. 93)
5. Describe the contest that the pilgrims participate in. (pgs. 90 and 117)
6. What is the prize for winning? (pg. 117)
7. What is the punishment for breaking the rules? (pg. 117)
8. What is social commentary? (pg. 95)
9. What is direct characterization? (pg. 95)
10. What is indirect characterization? (pg. 95)
11. What is a frame story? (pg. 137)
12. The Wife of Bath is considered the earliest example of a . (notes)
13. What crime has the knight committed in *The Wife of Bath’s Tale*? (pg. 139)
14. What riddle must the knight answer in order to save his life? (pg. 140)
15. How long is he given to complete this task? (pg. 140)
16. What problem does the knight have when he seeks the answer to the riddle? (pg. 140)
17. Once the knight has given the correct answer, what does the witch who helped him demand that he do? (pg. 145)
18. When the witch asks the knight would he rather have her old and faithful or young and unfaithful, which does he choose? (pg. 149)
19. What did the knight give the witch which was what she wanted all along? (pg. 149)
20. Explain the code of chivalry. (pg. 169)
21. What is feudalism? (pg. 5)

**Unit 3: The English Renaissance Period and *Macbeth***

1. What is the Renaissance? (notes and pgs. 236 and 238)
2. What is the Reformation? (pg. 237-238)
3. What invention came about during this time that greatly increased literacy rates? (pg. 236)
4. What new church was established by Henry VIII and why did he create it? (pg. 239)
5. The Middle ages gave rise to what social class? (notes)
6. What is humanism? (pg. 245)
7. What is the importance of the King James Bible? (pg. 244)
8. Describe London at this time period. (pg. 249)
9. What is a sonnet? (pg. 252)
10. What is a Petrarchan sonnet? (pg. 252)
11. What is a Spenserian sonnet? (pg. 252)
12. What is pastoral poetry? (pg. 264)
13. What is a Shakespearean sonnet? (pg. 272)
14. What is a tragedy? (pg. 308)
15. What is a comedy? (pg. 308)
16. What is a soliloquy? (pg. 308)
17. What is an aside? (pg. 308)
18. What does Duncan call Macbeth when he hears Macbeth has defeated Macdonwald? (pg. 326)
19. What is Macbeth’s reaction to the witches the first time he meets them? (pg. 327)
20. What advice does Lady Macbeth give her husband when he comes home? (pg. 336)
21. What are Macbeth’s arguments to himself against killing Duncan? (pg. 337)
22. How does Macbeth feel after killing Duncan? 346)
23. What does Lady Macbeth do that Macbeth is unable to do? (pg. 346)
24. Why does Macbeth claim he killed Duncan’s guards? (pg. 352)
25. Who does Macbeth plot to kill next? (pg. 363)
26. Why does Macbeth see Banquo’s ghost? (pg. 369-370)
27. What 3 warnings do the witches give Macbeth? (pgs. 382-383)
28. Why does Macbeth have Macduff’s family killed? (pg. 384)
29. Why is Macduff able to kill Macbeth? (pg. 412)
30. What is a tragic flaw? (pg. 400)
31. What is Macbeth’s tragic flaw? (notes)