Part A (50%)
At the very beginning of the *Ars Poetica* (aka “The Art of Poetry”), a canonical guide for composing poetry, the Roman poet-critic Horace writes of artistic licence, an issue that has been under debate from the sixteen century onwards in the history of English poetry:

Imagine a painter who wanted to combine a horse’s neck with a human head and then clothe a miscellaneous collection of limbs with various kinds of feathers, so that what started out at the top as a beautiful woman ended in a hideously ugly fish. If you were invited, as friends, to the private view, could you help stop laughing? Let me tell you, my Piso friends, a book whose different features are made up at random like a sick man’s dreams, with no unified form to have a head or a tail, is exactly like that picture. ‘Painters and poets have always enjoyed recognized rights to venture on what they will.’ Yes, we know; indeed, we ask and grant this permission turn and turn about. But it doesn’t mean that fierce and gentle can be united, snakes paired with birds or lambs with tigers. ... Poets aim either to do good or to give pleasure—or, thirdly, to say things which are both pleasing and serviceable for life.

Choose ONE poet from each group below and discuss how his poetry AND poetics derives and/or deviates from Horace’s notion of artistic licence. Be sure to be specific and concrete in your discussion of each poet’s works.
1) Sidney, Jonson, Addison, Pope, and Johnson
2) Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley, Arnold, and Eliot

Part B (50%)
The idea of the “American Dream” has been an important concept in understanding and assessing American literatures and cultures. Elaborate on this idea, such as its features and evolution as well as its relation with issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, transnational movement or other topics of your choice, by discussing one or two authors and their works from two different periods of time respectively: (1) pre-1865; (2) post-1865.

**ATTENTION:** You MUST bring up two authors at the minimum, and each has to come from one of the two periods of time as indicated above.