Prologue: Canterbury Tales

Study Review Questions

/65 Name

Each question worth varying points according to what/how much is asked

•	In the opening of the Prologue what time of year is it –describe it & what lines tell you this?
•	What is an example of symbolism in the opening of the Prologue; what is the line#?
•	What is the nature of the trip for the travelers? How many people and what classes are excluded?
•	Where does Chaucer meet the group of pilgrims? Who is the first pilgrim introduced?
•	Quote a line in which Chaucer summarizes his opinion of the Knight? What qualities does Chaucer ascribe to chivalry—does the Knight possess any?
•	What is the relationship of the Squire to the Knight? How has he done in battle? How does his description differ from the Knight?
•	What are 3 places mentioned in the first 100 lines?
•	is the character following the Squire. What is the meaning of this kind of character (footnote).
•	What details of the Prioress (Nun) indicate that she has not totally renounced the world?
•	What does the Monk think about studying books, engaging in manual labor, and the typical 'rules' of his 'order'Name 3 opinions.
•	Who does the line "in all four orders there was none so mellow" describe? Why does this so aptly describe him?
•	Look at lines 227-230 & 264-268. What do these lines tell about the Friar. How do the Monk, the Friar, and the Prioress compare?
•	The Merchant was "expert at dabbling in exchanges" line, but what is his secret?

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•	How does the Oxford Cleric typify the scholar? Write one of the lines to describe him
•	What does Chaucer imply about the Sergeant at the Law in lines 331-332? What is his strongest attribute?
•	Look at the footnote for what Franklin meanswhat is his primary importance?
•	Who are the five working-class characters? What is the title to describe this group? Which do you like best?
•	What are some of the things the cook prepares? What is the only physical characteristic mentioned?
•	"The nicer rules of conscience he ignored," is reported of which traveler and why?
•	Though the Doctor appears to be well-trained in current medical thought, his interests lie in one area only. What is it? Why?
•	Quote two lines where the Wife of Bath's face and body are described.
•	List 3 phrases & lines that depict the Parson as "a holy-minded man of good renown."
•	What is the difference between the description of the Plowman and the ParsonHow are they treated differently from the other characters?
•	How does the Miller trick the others (line 576-579)? List 3 descriptions of him (and line).
•	Why is the Reeve (line 621) "Feared like the plague"? Describe his job.
•	How does the Summoner use his position in the Church to make money for himself? What line proves that.

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•	List two details	and their lines	of Pardoner	's physical	description a	and his pers	sonality / attitude.
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- In line 743-764, Chaucer argues he must present everything that is said regardless of offense or "else the tale he tells will be untrue." Justify his position.
- What are two things the pilgrims agree to do during their pilgrimage to Canterbury and back? Who do they make this promise to?
- What is the Host's name? Describe him? What is his function on this journey?
- This is a very long prologue. List at least two things Chaucer accomplished in writing this prologue before allowing his pilgrims to tell their stories.