**Lady of Shallot**

**Essay Questions**

1. Does the Lady of Shallot have any agency in the poem? How?
2. The poem is often read as a representation of artistic isolation and melancholia, but what does the poem have to say about the status of women? Is The Lady of Shalott as much a story of unfulfilled romantic desire as it is a poem about artistry? About domestic imprisonment? Discuss.
3. Does the Lady of Shallot’s fate suggest that change and action equal death, or did Tennyson intend to convey a more ambiguous message? Discuss?
4. Do you agree that Lady of Shallot is intended to be a “cautionary tale”, rather than a “feminist manifesto”? What are the important historical (rather than literary) implications in the meaning/message of the poem? How? Why? Discuss.
5. In what ways does Tennyson use mechanical devices (i.e. alliteration, rhyme scheme, meter, etc) to enhance the meaning/message of his poem?