

Larbi Ben M'hidi University - Oum El Bouaghi

Faculty of Letters and Languages Department of English Language

Level: Second Year (LMD)

Module: Literary Texts

Name:

Group:.....

Second Semester Exam in TL (Model Answer)

Part One: Read the following extracts, identify **two** characteristics of Naturalism and explain them. (6pts)

a/ A man stood upon a railroad bridge in northern Alabama, looking down into the swift water twenty feet below. The man's hands were behind his back, the wrists bound with a cord. A rope closely encircled his neck. It was attached to a stout cross-timber above his head and the slack fell to the level of his knees. Some loose boards laid upon the sleepers supporting the metals of the railway supplied a footing for him and his executioners—two private soldiers of the Federal army, directed by a sergeant who in civil life may have been a deputy sheriff. At a short remove upon the same temporary platform was an officer in the uniform of his rank, armed. He was a captain. [...]It did not appear to be the duty of these two men to know what was occurring at the center of the bridge; they merely blockaded the two ends of the foot planking that traversed it. (Ambrose Bierce, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*)

b/ As he is about to clasp her he feels a stunning blow upon the back of the neck; a blinding white light blazes all about him with a sound like the shock of a cannon—then all is darkness and silence! Peyton Farquhar was dead; his body, with a broken neck, swung gently from side to side beneath the timbers of the Owl Creek bridge. (Ambrose Bierce, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*)

a/ Objectivity (detachment) (1pt): Naturalist writers maintain an objectivity in their storytelling. They detach themselves from the emotional components of the story and serve more as impartial observers of what transpires (1pt). The narrator describes the scene of hanging or execution without expressing any sense of sympathy towards Peyton Farquhar. He even does not name him.(1pt)

OR

Setting (1pt): Naturalism puts great emphasis on the impact of environment, so location tends to play a significant role in these works. (1pt) The setting of the story is Northern Alabama during the American Civil war and it played a significant role in determining Farquhar's destiny (1pt)

b/Plot Twist (1pt): Many naturalist works include a plot twist or some type of intense gut-punch at the end of the story. This underscores the futility of the character's struggle and the fixed quality of their destiny.(1pt) The final sentence was quite a twist ending that took the readers by surprise to find out that just about all of part three was just a vision that Farquhar was imaging right before he died. (1pt)

N.B : Determinism is an accepted answer

Part Two: 14pts

1/Read the following statements carefully, then, fill in the gaps accordingly. (10pts)

**1- Under the brown fog of a winter dawn,
A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many
I had not thought death had undone so many.
Sighs, short and infrequent, were exhaled,
And each man fixed his eyes before his feet.**

The brown fog symbolizes poisonous air or pollution, rats, and dead bodies, decay of the urban and industrialized life. (0.5pt)

(And each man fixed his eyes before his feet) illustrates one of the major themes of modern literature which is alienation, estrangement, and damaged psyche of the modern man in the aftermath of WWI. (0.5pt)

The underlined lines are reference to Dante Alighieri's *Inferno* (1pt)

**2-Yet when we came back, late, from the Hyacinth garden,
Your arms full, and your hair wet, I could not
Speak, and my eyes failed, I was neither
Living nor dead, and I knew nothing,
Looking into the heart of light, the silence.
Oed' und leer das Meer.**

In these lines T. S. Eliot uses a poetic technique called apostrophe (0.5pt), which means a rhetorical figure in which the speaker addresses a dead or absent person, or an abstraction or inanimate object (1pt).

The speaker is Hyacinth girl (0.5pt)

The underlined line is a reference to Richard Wagner's opera *Tiristan and Isolde* (1pt)

**3-Madame Sosostris, famous clairvoyante,
Had a bad cold, nevertheless Is known to be the wisest woman in Europe,
With a wicked pack of cards.
Here, said she, Is your card, the drowned Phoenician Sailor,
(Those are pearls that were his eyes. Look!)
Here is Belladonna, the Lady of the Rocks,
The lady of situations.**

Belladonna means the beautiful lady (1pt) and it is an allusion to Leonardo Davincci's painting *Madonna of the Rocks* (1pt)

the poetic device used is iconicity (0.5pt), which means The use of signs like punctuation to convey a message. (1pt)

**4-What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow
Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,
You cannot say, or guess, for you know only**

A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,
The speaker of these lines is Prophet Tiresias or God (0.5pt)

Justify? There 's an allusion in the second line that is based on Ezekiel/the bible. Moreover, it' not clear whether the speaker is a man or a woman just like Tiresias (1pt)

2/ The above lines from T.S Eliot's The Waste Land embody two important characteristics of modernist literature. Identify those characteristics and explain them. (4pts)

1- Fragmentation (1pt), allusions, expalantion (3pts)

OR

2- Perpectivism(1pt), multiple speakers, examples with explanation (3pts).

Good Luck!