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Department of English

Third year students

MODAL ANSWERS OFTHE FIRST EXAM in LITERATURE

Exercise 01: Answers to the questions (10pts) **(2 pts. for each correct answer)**

1. Naturalism first started in France where it was inspired by the work of the French writer Emile Zola.The fundamental naturalist doctrine is presented in Zola's 1880 essay ''Le roman experimental'' In it, Zola claims that the naturalist writers should subject ordinary characters and events to experimental conditions. Another major principle that Zola explains in this essay is the idea of determinism.

2. Naturalism was also influenced by the work of Charles Darwin. Naturalism applies Darwin's theory of evolution to fiction. He theorized that human beings evolved from lower animals thus , the characters, in the naturalist stories, behave in accordance with the impulses and drives of animals in nature.

3. The coming of World War I fulfilled the modernist predictions of a coming fragmentation and destruction of the modern world. For the modernists, the war alienated people from society and historical heritage, causing them to loose faith in their economic, political and religion institution. Likewise, The modernist writers almost feared the new technology and left it out of their writing thinking of it as the major cause of the moral decline.

4. A major characteristic of modernism is experimentation which may take the form of a set of techniques that modernist writers introduced into literature like **Stream of consciousness which is the flow of ideas and feelings in a chaotic manner*** **Allusion which is brief references to themes, characters , places from other texts** *Collage or inclusion of pieces from other texts to bring about one text. **Multiple voices to increase the number of points of view offered by the text** * Foregrounded language which shows the complex nature of reality.

5. The stylistic features of realism are: * Detailed description of place to build up the world of the text as if it is real* Third person omniscient narrator to create objective reality* Real historical time * Dialogue to capture the natural speech of characters from different socio-economic backgrounds* Transparent language which tells reality.

Exercise 2: **The following texts are extracts from two different literary works; the first one is taken from a realist novel and the second one from a naturalist novella. Read the texts carefully, then answer the questions below (10pt)**

1. What Stylistic Features of realism can be identified in each text? Justify your answer

Text 01: 1. A non-foregrounded language, which does not draw attention to the form of the text but depicts reality (miserable working conditions of child labor) (1.5pts)

Text 02: 1. A non-foregrounded language, which is very transparent to depict a familiar situation of a drunken adult.(0,75pt)

2. Third Person Omniscient Narrator: the storyteller is an invisible presence, which knows and tells everything about the character Jimmie and his family. (0,75pt)

1. What is the central theme of each text? Justify your answer

Text 01: The exploitation of Child labor: The narrator tells of the bad conditions he is forced to work in " old building" " overrun with the rats", working for "For six shillings a week".(1,5pt)

Text 02: Determinism: Jimmie's choices in life are predetermined by external factors manifested in the milieu to which he belongs. Living with alcoholic parents who constantly shout out and quarrel was the driving force behind Jimmie's visits to the bar and drinking whiskies. (1,5pt)

3. The difference between the two works lies in the idea of free will which exists in Charles Dickens novel and determinism which is the central themes of Stephen Crane's Maggie. Maggie was predestined to become a prostitute and die mysteriously at the end. She is a victim of the circumstances (alcoholic cruel mother, cynical brother, unforgiving neiborhood, unfaithful partner) in spite of the best attempts to improve her life.