

Second Semester Exam in Literary Texts, May 2024/2025

I-Choose the correct answer: (3pts)

1/In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine primarily argues for:

- A) Reconciliation with Britain
- B) American independence and a republican government**
- C) Economic reforms without political change

2/Why was *Common Sense* so effective in influencing public opinion?

- A. It used classical Latin and Greek to impress readers
- B. It used clear, emotional, and persuasive language**
- C. It supported both sides of the independence debate

3/What major issue does Paine highlight about inherited monarchy?

- A. It often results in unfit rulers having power**
- B. It passes on wisdom through generations
- C. It grants excessive liberty to citizens

4/Why does Paine believe that making peace with Britain is no longer a reasonable option?

- A. Britain's goals completely clash with those of the colonies**
- B. The King is close to granting American independence
- C. The colonies are too weak to demand fair terms

5/What does Paine mean by the phrase "We have it in our power to begin the world over again"?

- A. Americans have the chance to return to British rule peacefully
- B. The colonies can set an example by creating a fair and just government**
- C. History can be erased through independence

6/How does Paine use religious references in *Common Sense* to support his arguments?

- A. He argues that religious leaders should rule instead of monarchs
- B. He claims that the Bible explicitly supports the British monarchy
- C. He compares monarchy to the tyranny of sin and corruption**

II-Complete the sentences with the correct information. (9pts)

1. ☐ The men Rip meets in the mountains are dressed in old-fashioned Dutch clothing and are believed to be the ghosts of **(1) Henry Hudson** and **(2) his crew**.
2. ☐ Although the political system has changed, Rip's personal life remains **(3) unchanged**, suggesting that revolutions don't always affect the **(4) ordinary** individual.
3. ☐ The villagers come to view Rip as a kind of village **(5) storyteller** (or **legend**), someone who has experienced strange things and now lives on the **(6) margins** of society.
4. ☐ The portrait at the inn changes from **(7) King George III** to **(8) General George Washington**, showing the shift in political power.
5. ☐ Upon returning, Rip is confused when people ask if he is a **(9) Federalist** or a **(10) Democrat**, showing how much the political identity of citizens has changed.
6. ☐ Irving presents Rip's life after his return as peaceful but meaningless, subtly suggesting that Rip's avoidance of **(11) responsibility** leads to a hollow form of freedom.

7. ☐ Dame Van Winkle can be interpreted as a metaphor for (12) **British rule**, reflecting the colonial relationship between America and Britain.
8. ☐ Rip Van Winkle slept through the entire (13) **American Revolution**, missed the birth of the (14) **new nation**, and returned to find his (15) **wife** gone.
9. ☐ In *Common Sense*, Paine argues that (16) **monarchy** is a dangerous form of government, that America must seek (17) **independence**, and that power should come from the (18) **people**.

III- Read the following passages and identify whether each belongs to American Romanticism, Transcendentalism, *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine, or American Realism. Provide a brief explanation (2–3 sentences) justifying your classification based on the content, style, or themes. (8pts)

1-“The life of man is of no greater duration than the breath of his nostrils. Yet, within this fleeting existence, there lies a spark of divinity, a soul that communes with the eternal. To find truth, one must look within, trusting the heart’s quiet voice over the clamor of society.”

Answer: Transcendentalism

Explanation: This passage emphasizes introspection, the divine within the individual, and trusting personal intuition over societal norms—all key traits of Transcendentalism.

2-“The mountains rose before him, their peaks lost in a shroud of mist, as if guarding secrets older than time. He felt a strange pull, a longing to wander their shadowed paths, where the world seemed alive with mystery and wonder.”

Answer: American Romanticism

Explanation: The focus on nature’s beauty, mystery, and emotional effect on the individual reflects Romantic ideals, especially the fascination with the sublime and the unknown.

3-“Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one. We have it in our power to begin the world over again, free from the chains of tyranny.”

Answer: Common Sense by Thomas Paine

Explanation: This is a direct excerpt from *Common Sense* and reflects Paine’s political philosophy criticizing monarchy and encouraging revolution and self-rule.

4-“Little Mrs. Sommers one day found herself the unexpected possessor of fifteen dollars. It seemed to her a very large amount of money, and the way in which it stuffed and bulged her worn old porte-monnaie gave her a feeling of importance such as she had not enjoyed for years”

Answer: American Realism

Explanation: The focus on everyday life, economic struggles, and a character’s internal emotional world is typical of Realism, which often highlights ordinary people and realistic situations.