

First Semester Examination in Literature [Model Answers]:

Part One: Read the following text which is written by H.P. Lovecraft carefully then answer the questions. **(10 pts)**

1. Suggest a title to the text: **(1pt)**

- a. **Original title:** The White Ship
- b. **Other possible titles:** The Voyage Beyond the Moonlight/ The Dream Ship/A Journey into the Unknown ...

2. What literary genre does this text belong to ? Define it **(1pt)**

Fiction (0.5 pt) : It is one of the main genres of literature whose origins go back to the literary form known as the epic. It is written in prose, and it is based on imaginative events. **(0.5 pt)**

3. Apply your basic knowledge of fiction to analyze the text : **(8pts)**

a) **Theme** : Chasing a perfect dream can destroy what is real and safe. **(1pt)**

b) **Setting** : **(0.5 + 0.5)**

- **Place** : Real place : lighthouse
Dream place : North Point lighthouse by the sea, then dream-lands reached by the White Ship (Zar, Thalarion, Xura, Sona-Nyl, and the attempt toward Cathuria).
- **Time** : Real time : one night and the day after.
Dream time : mainly full-moon nights; the White Ship comes when the moon is full (three full moon nights)

c) **Conflict** : **(0.5+ 0.5)**

- **Internal conflict**: (person vs. self) (Basil vs. contradictory feelings) Basil struggles between contentment (safe beauty) and restless desire to go farther toward Cathuria.
- **External conflict**: (person vs. nature) (Basil vs. sea ...) beyond the basalt pillars, the voyage becomes a physical threat (the resistless sea, the cataract, and the crash).

d) **Characters** : **(1.5 pt)**

- **Basil Elton**: protagonist, major, dynamic, round.
- **The bearded man**: minor, static, flat.
- **The celestial bird**: Stock (symbolic force that drives the journey).

e) **Plot** : **(2 pts)**

- **Type of plot**: Simple/Linear plot (events follow a chronological order). **(0.5)**
- **Structure**: **(0 .5 + 0.5+ 0.5)**
- **Rising action**: -Basil boards the White Ship under the full moon.
-The ship travels through strange lands, and Basil's longing grows until he wants Cathuria.
- **Climax**: -when Basil ignores the bearded man's warning at the basalt pillars and deliberately sails onward.

- **Falling action** : -instead of Cathuria, they face the restless sea rushing toward the monstrous cataract, leading to the crash.
 -Basil awakens back at the lighthouse.
 - Afterward, the White Ship never returns, leaving only wreck traces and silence from the sea.

f) Point of view: (1,5 pt)

First Person Narration

- The narrator is a participating figure in the story. (he lives in the lighthouse and takes part in the voyage: “**I am Basil Elton, keeper of the North Point light** … He also physically joins the action when he answers the call and boards the ship: “**I walked out over the waters to the White Ship** …”)
- He narrates using the first-person pronoun (I / we). (Ex: “**I watched it and listened to it ...**,” “**We saw the black rock pillars of the West**”).
- He reports the events from the perspective of the protagonist (his perceptions, wishes, and decisions).

Part Two: Consider the following statements. Put «True» or «False» in front of each. If «False», correct them. (5pts)

1. What distinguishes the novel from the novella and short story is length. (1pt) [True/ False]
2. The plot refers to the struggle between opposing forces in a narrative. (0.5 pt) [True/ False]
 - *This is the conflict.* (0.5 pt)
3. The third person narrative perspective reports action subjectively. (True/ False)
 - *He reports events objectively*
4. It is always easy to identify period and location in any work of fiction. (True/ False)
 - *Not always, since the writer can hint to them indirectly rather than directly.*
5. The antagonist is the opposing force that challenges the protagonist. [True/ False]

Part Three : Paragraph Writing (5pts)

During Santiago's long struggle with the Marlin in *The Old Man and the Sea*, he is forced to prove his skill against a powerful creature on the one hand, and to confront his own fear and doubt on the other.

- In a well-written paragraph of **10 lines maximum**, explain how Santiago experiences two different types of conflict at the same moment.
- **Form and Language** : (indentation, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure ...) (1.5)
- **Content** : (3.5)

It shows two conflicts at once because **Santiago is physically battling the marlin while mentally battling himself.**

(NB: the student must mention that there are two conflicts called internal and external, and he must explain.)

- **External conflict (with the marlin):** He must keep tension on the line, control the fish's pulls, endure the long fight, and use skill and strength so that the marlin does not escape.
- **Internal conflict (inside Santiago):** At the same time, he struggles with **fear, doubt, pain, and exhaustion**—worrying whether he is still strong enough, whether he can last, and whether he will fail. He tries to control these thoughts by talking to himself, focusing on endurance, and forcing himself to continue.

So, the scene becomes a double struggle: **man vs. marlin and man vs. his own weakness and uncertainty.**

Part Three : Paragraph Writing (5pts) [G07+09] (5pts)

In literary works, characters are often confronted with external obstacles as well as inner fears or doubts simultaneously.

- In a well-written paragraph of **10 lines maximum**, explain how a character can experience two different types of conflict at the same time.
- **Form and Language** : (indentation, capitalization, punctuation, sentence structure ...) **(1.5)**
- **Content** : **(3.5)**

(NB: the student must mention that there are two conflicts called internal and external, and he must explain. And he can use an example to show how the two happens at the same time.)

In literary works, a character can experience two types of conflicts at the same time:

- **External conflict:** comes from an outside problem such as fighting an enemy.
- **Internal conflict:** happens inside the character's mind or heart.

Example: a traveler who loses his way in the desert during a storm can struggle with the harsh environment (external conflict), and he may feel afraid and doubt his ability to survive (internal conflict).

So, an external conflict often prompt an internal one .