# First Term Exam

# Model Answers

**Exercise 1: Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.(6pts)**

**During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone through a dreary region until I came in sight of the melancholy House of Usher. A strange, insufferable gloom seemed to fall upon my spirit the moment I looked at it. The windows appeared like vacant eyes staring at me, and the trees around the mansion seemed to whisper in the cold wind. Everything around me felt alive yet lifeless at the same time, as if the house itself breathed sorrow and watched my every step.**

a- Explain **one** feature of romanticism the in the extract. **(3pts: feature's name= 0.25pt/ the quote=0.25pt, argument= 1pt/explanation= 1pt/ correct language= 0.5)**

*Personification/ Supernatural Atmosphere: "The windows appeared like vacant eyes staring at me… the house itself breathed sorrow and watched my every step". The extract reflects Romanticism through the use of personification and a dark, supernatural atmosphere that emphasizes emotions and imagination over realism. Romantic writers often animate nature and objects to mirror inner feelings and create an intense emotional mood. Here, the house is given human qualities—eyes, breath, and awareness—which creates a sense of mystery and psychological unease. This focus on gloom, emotion, and the supernatural is a key Romantic feature, especially in Gothic Romanticism, as it explores the human mind and emotional response rather than objective reality.

b- Each of the underlined expressions includes a figure of speech. Explain. (3 pts)

• clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens

Figure of speech: Personification (0.5pt)

The clouds are described as oppressive a quality associated with human intention or emotional pressure. By suggesting that the clouds actively weigh down the sky, the writer gives nature a human-like ability to affect mood. (1pt).

Or

The narrator attributes a human quality or ability to the clouds, which is " hanging oppressively."

- insufferable gloom seemed to fall upon my spirit

Figure of speech: Metaphor (0.5pt)

Explanation: Gloom is an abstract feeling, and fall upon suggests a physical weight or substance. The sentence metaphorically represents emotional sadness as something heavy descending on the spirit. (1pt)

**Exercise 2: Identify and explain <u>two</u> characteristics of realist literature in the extract given below. (6 pts)**

The fog lay thick over the streets of London, hanging low until it was almost a part of the very air the people breathed. Horses plodded wearily through the mist, their harnesses clinking in measured rhythms, while carts creaked under the burden of their loads. In the marketplace, the vendors called out in voices strained with fatigue, offering vegetables and bread to passersby who scarcely looked at their wares. Mr. Jarndyce, observing the scene from the window of his lodgings, noted the weariness in every face and the measured way men spoke of their troubles. Here, the concerns of daily survival were etched in every line of every countenance, and the bustle of life seemed both endless and burdened by the weight of routine.

1/Characteristic 1: Detailed depiction of everyday life **(3pts: feature's name= 0.25pt/ the quote=0.25pt, argument= 1pt/explanation= 1pt/ correct language= 0.5)**

"the vendors called out in voices strained with fatigue, offering vegetables and bread to passersby"

Realist literature focuses on ordinary people and their daily activities rather than heroic or idealized subjects. The extract presents common scenes from urban life—market vendors, carts, and passersby—described in a factual, concrete manner. This attention to routine labor and daily survival reflects Realism's aim to represent life as it is, without romantic embellishment.

Characteristic 2: Objective observation of social conditions **(3pts: feature's name= 0.25pt/ the quote=0.25pt, argument= 1pt/explanation= 1pt/ correct language= 0.5)**

"the concerns of daily survival were etched in every line of every countenance". Realism often exposes social realities such as fatigue, hardship, and routine through careful observation.The narrator objectively records the physical and emotional weariness of people living in the city. By emphasizing fatigue and routine rather than emotion or imagination, the extract highlights Realism's concern with social conditions and the lived experience of ordinary individuals.

**Exercise 3: Complete the paragraph with the correct missing words, names, or titles. (7pts: 0.5 pt for each answer)**

Romanticism emerged in Europe toward the end of the (1) eighteenth century, as writers began to emphasize emotion and imagination (2) rather than reason/ rationality (3) celebrated during the Enlightenment. Poets such as (4) William Wordsworth in Lyrical Ballads and (5) Lord Byron in She Walks in Beauty highlighted intense feelings, nature's spiritual power, and personal experience. Romantic writers frequently glorified nature, seeing it as a source of (6) inspiration,

healing, and moral truth, as we can observe in John Keats's poem (7)  To Autumn and (8) Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Frost at Midnight. Many Romantic narratives also explored supernatural elements and psychological darkness, especially in works like (9) Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, where inner turmoil and fear are expressed through Gothic imagery.

By contrast, Realism developed in the (10) nineteenth century as a reaction against Romantic idealization. Realist writers attempted to portray (11) everyday life/ social reality with accuracy and precision. Figures such as (12) Henry James in A Portrait of a Lady examined social class, moral dilemmas, and the often harsh conditions of urban life. Unlike Romantic authors, Realists avoided (13) idealization and exaggeration/ supernatural characters, preferring believable characters shaped by their (14) social environment and circumstances/ society.