

TYPICAL CORRECTION OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAM (2020/2021)

Level: 2nd Year

Module: Literature

Teacher: Dida Nassireddine

Date: 07/03/2021

Time: 08.30 am – 09.30 am

Duration: 1h

1) Complete the following: (06 pts.)

1. **The Goths are characterised** by barbarism, primitiveness, chaos, irrationality, paganism, and superstition.
2. **Transcendentalism means** the ability to learn and reveal spiritual truth by transcending or going beyond sensual and physical perception. It is a Romantic offshoot that emphasises intuitive wisdom, imagination, and idealisation.
3. **Parataxis** is the use of phrases or independent clauses arranged one after the other without any subordinating or coordinating conjunctions

2) List the central characteristics of Transcendentalism: (03 pts.)

- a. Nature purifies the soul.
- b. Knowledge is based on feeling and intuition.
- c. Self-reliance
- d. Solitude and meditation
- e. Non-conformism
- f. Celebration of the self, love, desire, sexuality

3) Show the difference between Neoclassicism and Romanticism: (04 pts.)

While neoclassicism stresses reason and science, Romanticism emphasises imagination and spiritual truth :

Neoclassicism: elevated language; prose; innate savagery, immorality, and sinfulness; wild individual; empirical reality; intellectuality; common sense, etc.

Romanticism: common language; poetry; innate innocence; free individual; supernatural and spiritual reality; non-conformism, etc.

4) Address the key elements of Gothic fiction included in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher": (7 pts.)

In a well-written paragraph, students are required to link the elements of Gothic fiction to Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher". Students must aim at analysing the targeted elements of Gothic fiction, instead of summarising Poe's story. Among the elements are setting in a castle; an atmosphere of mystery, horror, and suspense; physically and emotionally isolated protagonists; conflicting emotions and a heightened sense of drama ; damsel in distress; foreboding and omens; and finally, supernatural reality. These elements must be projected on the events and characters of Poe's story. To mention but a few examples, the Usher castle or setting is depicted as debilitating and decaying. Likewise, Roderick Usher's physical and mental health is declining and falling apart. Regarding women in distress, Madeline represents women's inferiority and submission in a male-dominated society, where their lives are constantly in danger. We also learn that Roderick suffers conflicting emotions that may arise from a trouble conscience or a secret sin. This emotional torment results in his physical confinement in his castle, which will portend the fall of the house of the Usher family and lineage later. In conclusion, the element of the supernatural appears when Madeline, who is buried alive, returns from the grave and attacks her brother Roderick.