

**The Faculty of Letters and Foreign languages**  
**Department of English**  
**First Year**

**Literature: 1st Exam Typical Correction**

**Teacher: Mr Dida Nassireddine**

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**1) Define these literary terms:(04 pts.)**

**a) Syllabic metre:**each line has the same number of syllables but the number of stresses varies

**b) Rime Royal:** A stanza of seven lines and each line with ten syllables, rhyming (ABABBCC).

**c) Allegory:** It is a story or a picture with a hidden meaning. The characters in allegories are symbols which represent particular ideas. The story has a figurative meaning, not a literal one.

**d) Couplet:** the name for two rhyming lines of verse following immediately after each other.

**2) Mention the title of three tales from Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.(03 pts.)**

1. The Knight's Tale
2. The Wife of Bath
3. The Franklin's Tale

**3) What are the types of poetry? (Include a concise definition.) And in which type would you classify *Beowulf*?(03 pts.)**

**Lyric Poetry:** a short, non-narrative poem in which a single speaker presents a state of mind or an emotional state

**Narrative Poetry:** Narrative poetry gives a verbal representation, in verse, of a sequence of connected events. It propels characters through a plot. For example, *Beowulf* is an **epic** poem or a narrative poem.

**4) What are the qualities with which you test a good literary work?(02pts.)**

1. **Universality**(passions and emotions, love etc. in general human nature)
2. **Personal Style**(“the adequate expression of thought”)

**5) What were the themes of metrical romances of Britain? Give a metrical romance title as an example.(02pts.)**

The main themes of metrical romances of Britain are almost invariably on love, religion, and duty as defined by chivalry. The example is *Sir Gawain and The Green Knight*.

**6) In a three-line paragraph describe how humanism influenced Geoffrey Chaucer's poetry, especially his *The Canterbury Tales*.(03pts.)**

Until Chaucer's day popular literature had been busy chiefly with the gods and heroes of a golden age; however, when Chaucer met Petrarch and Boccaccio, he attempted a new realistic literature: the greater focus was on society and human beings.

**7) What are the circumstances under which the production of a great literature becomes impossible? Illustrate with reference to the Anglo-Saxon literature. (03pts.)**

The Anglo-Saxons were a conquered people, and without **liberty** a great literature is impossible. The Normans came to England at a time when the idea of **nationality** was dead, when **culture** had almost vanished, when Englishmen lived apart in narrow isolation. Under this new condition of **servitude** they could hardly preserve what remained of their literature which first was destroyed by the Danes; and second marginalised by the Normans.