

# Second year prose- exam samples and notes

Second year prose- Dr Jumana Al-Dahhak

# Exam questions: Types

- As we have finished the course (context, theory and textual analysis), we now reach the point where we discuss the types of exam questions. This will help you understand how to study the course, what to focus on, and how to manage the questions in the exam. You will have samples of exam questions from previous courses to help you put the notes to application.

# Exam questions: Types

- Typically, the exam consists of 45 to 50 exam questions.
- The first part is dedicated to the theory and context of the eighteenth century novel. So here we have short questions that examine your understanding of the first two lectures, along with the theoretical aspects of the remaining lectures: 18<sup>th</sup> century society and culture, the rise of the novel, the biography of Daniel Defoe, the theory of Wollstonecraft's writing...etc.
- This part contains 8 to 10 questions. Examples in the next slide:

# Contextual and Theoretical Questions

- 1) Early eighteenth century society is marked by.....: A. prosperity. B. sensibility. C. romanticism. D. misery
- 2) The novel and the Romance were both.....genres. A. realistic. B. aristocratic. C. fictitious. D. all three
- 3) Daniel Defoe is sympathetic to his heroine Moll Flanders because he made her embody his own.....views. A. gentlemanly. B. moral. C. familial. D. liberal

## Answers:

- 1) D (life in early 18<sup>th</sup> century was one of poverty and misery)
- 2) C (Romance and Novel were pieces of fiction, the novel only was realistic, the Romance alone was aristocratic)
- 3) A (Daniel Defoe changed his name to make it prestigious, he worked in trade and was keen on becoming a gentleman, exactly like the heroine he created)

# Exam Questions: Textual analysis

- The second part of the exam consists of textual analysis questions; questions that examine your understanding of the texts we covered: *Moll Flanders* and *Mary A Fiction*.
- The questions consist of the following pattern: a passage from the text, followed by a number of questions (4 to 5) on this passage. So, you will read the passage carefully, then answer your questions based on your reading of this passage. The answer will be there, based on your understanding of the whole text.
- This part is divided between the two novel: you will have approximately 25 questions on *Moll Flanders* and 15 or so questions on *Mary*.
- Sample exam questions are in the next slides.

# Exam Questions: Textual analysis

## ***Moll Flanders:***

- ♦ ***“Thus the devil, who began by the help of an irresistible poverty to push me into this wickedness, brought me on to a height beyond the common rate, even when my necessities were not so terrifying; for I had now got into a little vein of work...”***
- 1) This passage shows Moll’s: A. acceptance of responsibility. B. absolving herself of moral responsibility. C. sense of remorse. D. evil nature
- 2) Moll’s tone in this passage is: A. satiric. B. confessional. C. philosophical. D. instructional.
- 3) Based on your reading of Moll’s criminal narratives, this passage points to the stage where she was: A. starting her criminal career. B. at the peak of her career. C. at the end of her career. D. in Newgate.
- 4) This passage reflects the novel’s: A. positive moral design. B. detest of past crimes. C. rhetoric of ruin. D. all three

## **Answers:**

- 1) A (Moll still blames the devil for her crimes)
- 2) B (She is confessing to readers her crimes and feelings)
- 3) B (She mentions that she reached a height beyond the common rate)
- 4) C (Moll is still involved in crime and feels pushed by the devil)

# Exam Questions: Textual analysis

## ***Mary, A Fiction:***

- ***“Her understanding was strong and clear, when not clouded by her feelings; but she was too much the creature of impulse, and the slave of compassion.”***
- 1) This passage is an enactment of Wollstonecraft’s project, as stated in the Preface, of presenting: A. the rational powers of women. B. the privilege of feeling. C. a woman in love. D. the risk of entering into a loveless union.
- 2) In the same passage, Mary is presented as prisoner of: A. reason. B. her mother’s prejudice. C. society’s view of women. D. her sensibility.
- 3) Wollstonecraft is using the form of sentimental novel to: A. inculcate feelings. B. expose sensibility. C. criticize extreme female reason. D. all three.

## **Answers:**

- 1) A (Wollstonecraft aimed to instruct women on how to use rational powers)
- 2) D (although Mary suffered from a number of problems, yet for Wollstonecraft the most dangerous one was sensibility which is meant to reflect the fate of most women of her time)
- 3) B (Wollstonecraft aimed to criticize sensibility for being the major cause of women’s misery, from her point of view)

# The End

- With this, we come to the end of this course. Although this procedure of writing lectures and sending them to you has been far from normal, yet it was meant as an emergency plan to compensate for the no-lecture period.
- This can in no way replace the vivid discussion and live interaction we normally have in class, which infuses life in the course. However, this was completely out of hand in the Corona time. I hope we can meet at some point in the future to discuss what we have in these files.
- For now, I wish you all the best. Hope you managed to make the best out of these files. Stay well.