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| **Benha University****Faculty of Arts****Department of English****Second Year**  | **شعار الجامعة ألوانFirst semester (2017-2018)****Code: BU\_FART\_ENGL14****Time of the exam: 1 hour****The exam is in TWO pages (تخلفات)**  |

**Exam of “History of English Literature”**

**1- Sate briefly what you know about the reign of THREE of the following Kings/Queens:(3 Marks)**

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| A- Henry VIII | B- Charles I | C- Elizabeth I | D- Charles II | E- George II | F- George III |

1. **Henry VIII**

Henry VIII is remembered in history as one of the most powerful kings of England. Except for getting married six times, desperate for a male heir, Henry changed the face of England, passing the *Acts of Union with Wales* , thus becoming the first English King of Wales, then changing his title of Lord of Ireland into that of (also first) King of Ireland. In 1533, Henry divorced his first wife, Catherine of Aragon to remarry Anne Boleyn, the Pope excommunicated Henry, and in return, Henry proclaimed himself head of the *Church of England*. To assure the control over the clergy, Henry dissolved all the monasteries in the country and nationalized them, becoming immensely rich in the process. Henry VIII was the last English king to claim the title of King of France, as he lost his last possession there, the port of Calais. It was also under Henry VIII that England started exploring the globe and trading outside Europe, although this would only develop to colonial proportions under his daughters, Mary I and especially Elizabeth I.

1. **Charles I:**

 **Charles I** was eager to unify Britain and Ireland, and wanted to do so as an absolute ruler of divine right, like his French counter-part Louis XIV. Despite being an (Anglican) Protestant, his marriage with a French Roman Catholic combined with policies at odd with Calvinist ideals and his totalitarian handling of the Parliament eventually culminated in the EnglishCivil War. The country was torn between Royalist and Parliamentarian troops and most of the medieval castles still standing were destroyed during that period. Charles was beheaded, and the puritan leader of the Parliamentarians, Oliver Cromwell, ruled the country as a dictator from 1649 to his death.

1. **Elizabeth I:**

 The great Virgin Queen Elizabeth I saw the first golden age of England. It was an age of great navigators like Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh, an age of enlightenment with the philosopher Francis Bacon, and playwrights such as Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare. Her reign was also marked by conflicts with France and Scotland (bound by a common queen, Mary Stuart), then Spain and Ireland. Elizabeth was a prudent ruler. She never married, and when Mary Stuart tried and failed to take over the throne of England, Elizabeth kept her imprisoned for 19 years, before finally signing her act of execution. Elizabeth died in 1603, and ironically, Mary Stuart's son, James VI of Scotland, succeeded Elizabeth as King James I of England - thus creating the United Kingdom.

1. **Charles II:**

 The "Merry Monarch", as Charles II was known, was better at handling Parliament than his father, although as ruthless with other matters. It is during his reign that the Whig and Tory parties were created, and that the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam became English and was renamed New York, after Charles' brother, James, Duke of York. Charles II was the patron of the arts and sciences. He helped found the Royal Society and sponsored architect Sir Christopher Wren, who rebuilt the City of London of the Great Fire of 1666, and constructed some of England's greatest edifices. Charles acquired Bombay and Tangiers through his Portuguese wife, thus laying the foundation for the British Empire. Although Charles produced countless illegitimate children, 14 of whom he acknowledged, his wife could not bear an heir, and when he died in 1685 the throne passed to his Catholic and unpopular brother James.

1. **George II:**

**George II** was German born, and combined the title of Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, Archtreasurer and Prince-Elector of the Holy Roman Empire to that of King of Great-Britain and Ireland. He was a powerful ruler, and the last British monarch to personally lead his troops into battle. Hanoverian composer G.F. Handel was commissioned to compose his coronation anthem ("Zadok the Priest"), which has been sung at every coronation since. The British Empire expanded considerably during his reign and the song "God Save the King" also developed during that period. Some other notable changes include the replacement of the Julian Calendar by the Gregorian Calendar in 1752, and the New Year was officially moved from 25 March to 1 January.

1. **George III:**

 The first Hanoverian king to be born in England with English as his native language, George III had one of the most troubled and interesting reign in British history. He ascended the throne during the Seven Years' War opposing almost all the major Western powers in two teams, chiefly British against French, and ended in a *de facto* victory for the UK, which acquired New France, Florida, and most of French India in the process.

 However, 13 years later, the American War of Independence started after the British government imposed a series of taxes on the colonies. The 13 American colonies were finally granted their independence in 1782 and formed the United States of America. 7 years later, the French Revolution broke out, and Louis XVI was guillotined. George III suffered from an hereditary disease known as porphyria, and his mental health seriously deteriorated from 1788. By 1811 he was permanently insane. In 1800, the Act of Union merged the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland.

 Another notable fact of George III's reign was the start of the Industrial Revolution, with James Watt's famous steam engine and the mechanization of the manufacturing industry transforming the face of England to this day. Great industrial cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield emerged as the new economic centers of the country, their population booming several fold.

**2- Demonstrate what you know about A or B of the following: (2 Marks)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 1. The Gunpowder Plot
 | 1. Postmodernism
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| **2** | 1. Wycliffe’s Bible
 | 1. *The Canterbury Tales*
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| **3** | 1. The mummers’ plays
 | 1. The morality plays
 |
| **4** | 1. Metaphysical poets
 | 1. Cavalier poets
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1. **A- The Gunpowder Plot:**

James I was a Protestant, like Elizabeth, and aimed at improving relations with the Catholics. But 2 years after he was crowned, a group of Catholic extremists led by Guy Fawkes attempted to place a bomb at the parliament's state opening, when the king and his entourage would be present, so as to get rid of all the Protestant aristocracy in one fell swoop. The conspirators were betrayed by one of their number just hours before the plan's enactment. The failure of the ***Gunpowder Plot***, as it is known, is still celebrated throughout Britain on Guy Fawkes' night (5th November), with fireworks and bonfires burning effigies of the conspirators' leader.

1. **B- Postmodernism:**

The term postmodern literature is used to describe certain tendencies in post-World War II literature. It is both a continuation of the experimentation championed by writers of the modernist period, relying heavily, for example, on fragmentation, paradox, questionable narrators, etc., and a reaction against Enlightenment ideas implicit in Modernist literature.

1. **A- Wycliffe’s Bible:**

Middle English Bible translations, notably Wycliffe's Bible, helped to establish English as a literary language. Wycliffe's Bible is the name now given to a group of Bible translations into Middle English that were made under the direction of John Wycliffe. These Bible translations were the chief inspiration and cause of the Lollard movement, a pre-Reformation movement that rejected many of the distinctive teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The term "Lollard" refers to the followers of John Wycliffe, a prominent theologian who was dismissed from the University of Oxford in 1381 for criticism of the Church. In the Middle Ages, most Western Christian people encountered the Bible only in the form of oral versions of scriptures, verses and homilies in Latin. Though relatively few people could read at this time, Wycliffe’s idea was to translate the Bible into the vernacular, saying "it helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best Christ’s sentence". Although unauthorized, the work was popular: Wycliffite Bible texts are the most common manuscript literature in Middle English and almost 200 manuscripts of the Wycliffite Bible survive.

**2- B- *The Canterbury Tales***

Chaucer is best known today for The Canterbury Tales. This is a collection of stories written in Middle English (mostly written in verse although some are in prose), that are presented as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together on a journey from Southwark to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. The prize for this contest is a free meal at the Tabard Inn at Southwark on their return. Chaucer is a significant figure in developing the legitimacy of the vernacular, Middle English, at a time when the dominant literary languages in England were still French and Latin.

1. **A- The mummers’ plays:**

Another form of medieval theatre was the mummers' plays, a form of early street theatre associated with the Morris dance, concentrating on themes such as Saint George and the Dragon and Robin Hood. These were folk tales re-telling old stories, and the actors travelled from town to town performing these for their audiences in return for money and hospitality.

**3- B- The morality plays:**

Having grown out of the religiously based mystery plays of the Middle Ages, the morality play is a genre of Medieval and early Tudor theatrical entertainment, which represented a shift towards a more secular base for European theatre. In their own time, these plays were known as "interludes", a broader term given to dramas with or without a moral theme. Morality plays are a type of allegory in which the protagonist is met by personifications of various moral attributes who try to prompt him to choose a Godly life over one of evil. The plays were most popular in Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries

1. **A- Metaphysical poets:**

The early 17th century included the Metaphysical poets: John Donne, George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, Andrew Marvell, and Richard Crashaw. Their style was characterized by wit and metaphysical conceits, that is far-fetched or unusual similes or metaphors Their poetry diverged from the style of their times, containing neither images of nature nor allusions to classical mythology, as were common, and there are often allusions to scientific or geographical discoveries. There is also a frequent concern with religious subjects in their poetry.

1. **B- Cavalier poets:**

The Cavalier poets were another important group of 17th-century poets, who came from the classes that supported King Charles I during the English Civil War. The best known of the Cavalier poets are Robert Herrick, Richard Lovelace, Thomas Carew and Sir John Suckling. They "were not a formal group, but all were influenced by" Ben Jonson. Most of the Cavalier poets were courtiers, with notable exceptions. For example, Robert Herrick was not a courtier, but his style marks him as a Cavalier poet. Cavalier works make use of allegory and classical allusions, and are influenced by Latin authors Horace, Cicero and Ovid.

**3- Choose the Correct Answer from A, B, C or D: (3.75 Marks)**

1. It was in the …….. era that the novel became the leading literary genre in English

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Victorian  | B) Modernist | C) Renaissance | D) Romantic |

1. ………'s religious inclinations and despotism led to his quick removal from power in the Glorious Revolution of 1688.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Henry IV | B) George II | C) James II | D) Charles I |

1. After the …….. Revolution, the gap between the rich and the poor increased considerably.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) French  | B) American  | C) Industrial  | D) Germanic  |

1. The linguist and lexicographer …….. had furthermore brought much of the Italian language and culture to England.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) William Langland  | B)John Florio | C) John Wycliff  | D) John Gower |

1. The ………. movement is a pre-Reformation movement that rejected many of the distinctive teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Romantic | B)Modernist | C) Victorian  | D) Lollard |

1. ……. is a significant figure in developing the legitimacy of the vernacular, Middle English.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Spenser | B)Marlow  | C) Shakespeare  | D) Chaucer |

1. …….. introduced the sonnet from Italy into England in the early 16th century.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) John Gower | B)John Wycliff  | C) John Florio | D) Thomas Wyatt  |

1. …….. is notable especially as the first verse drama in English to employ blank verse.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) *Piers Plowman* | B) *Gorboduc*  | C) *Anselm of Canterbury* | D) Cædmon's *Hymn* |

1. The multilingual nature of the audience for literature in the 14th century can be illustrated by the example of ………..

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Richard Rolle | B)William Langland | C) John Gower | D) John Dryden  |

1. *The Spanish Tragedy* established a new genre in English literature theatre, the …….. play.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) mystery | B)morality | C) mummers  | D) revenge |

1. One of the following works is not written by William Shakespeare. This is ………….

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) *As You Like It* | B) *King Lear* | C) *Doctor* *Faustus* | D) *The Tempest*  |

1. After Shakespeare's death, the poet and dramatist ………was the leading literary figure of the Jacobean era.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Ben Jonson | B)John Donne  | C) Alexander Pope  | D) John Dryden |

1. George I’s inability to communicate well with his government and subjects led him to appoint a *de facto* Prime Minister in the person of ………..

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Robert Walpole  | B) Lord Liverpool  | C) Richard Cromwell | D) Oliver Cromwell  |

1. ………..’s subject matter focuses more on the moral drama of the Renaissance man than any other thing.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Edmund Spenser  | B)John Donne  | C) Christopher Marlow  | D) William Shakespeare  |

1. The revenge play was popularized in the Elizabethan era by Thomas Kyd and then further developed later by.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) Alexander Pope  | B)John Webster | C) John Donne | D) John Dryden |

**4- Choose true or false (1.25 Marks)**

1. Mary I, a staunch Catholic, intended to restore Roman Catholicism to England, executing over 300 religious dissenters in her 6-year reign.

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| A) True | B)False |  |  |

1. English playwrights combined the influence of the Medieval theatre with the Renaissance's rediscovery of the Roman dramatists, Seneca, for tragedy, and Plautus and Terence, for comedy.

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| A) True | B)False |  |  |

1. George I was the first Hanoverian king to be born in England with English as his native language.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) True | B)False |  |  |

1. The most complete of the biblical collections of plays from the late medieval period is the York cycle of forty-two pageants.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A) True | B)False |  |  |

1. George Chapman is remembered chiefly for his famous translation in 1616 of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey into English verse.

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| A) True | B)False |  |  |

**With best wishes**

 Dr. Wafaa El-Deftar