



**Exam of "History of English Literature"**

**Part 1**

**1- BRIEFLY demonstrate what you know about A OR B of each of the following:**

1-	A- Causes for WWI	B- Causes for WWII
2-	A- The role of women during WWII	B- The role of blacks during WWII
3-	A- Truman Doctrine	B- Marshall Plan
4-	C- The significance and costs of WWII	D- The six major strategies of the Cold War
5-	A- Berlin Wall	B- Cuban Missile Crisis
6-	A- The characteristics of modernism	B- The characteristics of post-modernism
7-	A- The U-2 Incident	B- The Bay of Pigs Invasion

**To answer this question, students briefly summarize the following information about either A or B:**

**1- A- Causes for WWI :**

- ✘ Historians have traditionally cited four long-term causes of the First World War
  - ✘ NATIONALISM – a devotion to the interests and culture of one's nation
  - ✘ IMPERIALISM – Economic and political control over weaker nations
  - ✘ MILITARISM – The growth of nationalism and imperialism led to increased military spending
  - ✘ ALLIANCE SYSTEM – By 1907 Europe was divided into two armed camps

**Still, all the following factors contributed to the First World War:**

- 1- The system of secret alliances.
- 2- Race for armaments amongst various world powers.
- 3- Narrow nationalism.
- 4- Imperialist and economic rivalry amongst powers.
- 5- Ambition of Germany to dominate the world—Germany nourished strong desire to become a world power and carve out a world empire.
- 6- Italian irredentism—the growing population of the country and extremely bad economic conditions of the country obliged the government to look for new lands and economic resources in Africa.
- 7- French desire to recover Alsace and Lorraine (the two provinces which contained rich iron ores and coal reserves and greatly contributed to the industrial prosperity of Germany after annexing them after the Franco-Prussian war in 1871).
- 8- Change in the style of diplomacy—with the turn of the century, the old "compromise" diplomacy was replaced by a more businesslike "compensation" diplomacy under which states insisted on mutual give and take of colonies. But as no new colonies were available which could be battered away, the possibilities of conflicts among the imperialist states greatly increased.
- 9- Role of the press: the press adopted populist approach of exciting nationalist sentiments

against the enemy and misrepresented the facts.

- 10- Absence of an international machinery or an accepted code of international law to conduct the relations of the states.
- 11- Role of leaders—many historians believed that had Europe a better set of crises managers, things might have been a lot better.
- 12- Desire of the old and dominant classes to maintain the status quo—they suppressed radical working class movements within the country and tried to divert the attention of the people from the acute domestic issues by advocating an aggressive and expansionist foreign policy.
- 13- Troubles in the Balkans.

**While the Spark was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, heir to the Austrian throne, who was gunned down by a Serbia radical igniting a diplomatic crisis.

## **B- Causes for WWII:**

### **Major Causes for World War II**

#### **UNDERLYING:**

- Treaty of Versailles
- Extreme Nationalism
- Worldwide Depression
- Dictatorships
- The policy of appeasement
- American Isolationism
- Problems of nations' minorities
- Failure of the League of Nations
- Failure of disarmaments
- Ideological differences between communist, fascist and democratic countries
- Division of the world into two armed camps
- Hostility towards Soviet Russia

#### **DIRECT:**

- Germany invading Poland on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1939*

2-

## **A- The role of women during WWII:**

### **Women in Industries**

- Industries vacated by soldiers
- Single & Married
- 45% of workers in shipbuilding
- Women's "duty" to work on the "home front" while men were "away" fighting
- High wages, freedom, enjoyment, personal pride

### **Women in the War**

- 140,000 in WACS
- 100,000 in Navy WAVES
- Challenge to gender roles and norms

- Women's freedom and independence

### Women = Home = Homefront

### **B- The role of blacks during WWII:**

#### African Americans

- Segregated Units
- 125,000 into San Francisco & Oakland
- Housing & school shortages
- Segregation in schools increased

#### Race and the War

- Home front
- Segregated Units
- A. Philip Randolph
- Fair Employment Practices Commission

#### Blacks in WWII

- WWII effort directly led to later civil rights movement
- Patton's "Black Panther" Battalion at Battle of the Bulge
- Tuskegee Airmen

July, 1948: Truman signs Executive Order integrating US military

### 3-

#### **A- Truman Doctrine:**

- 1947: British help Greek government fight communist guerrillas.
  - They appealed to America for aid, and the response was the Truman Doctrine.
  - America promised it would support free countries to help fight communism.
  - Greece received large amounts of arms and supplies and by 1949 had defeated the communists.
- The Truman Doctrine was significant because it showed that America, the most powerful democratic country, was prepared to resist the spread of communism throughout the world.

#### **B- Marshall Plan:**

- In 1947, US Secretary of State Marshall announced the Marshall Plan.
  - This was a massive economic aid plan for Europe to help it recover from the damage caused by the war.
- There were two motives for this:
  - Helping Europe to recover economically would provide markets for American goods, so benefiting American industry.
  - A prosperous Europe would be better able to resist the spread of communism. This was probably the main motive.

### 4-

#### **A- The significance and costs of WWII:**

##### Significance of WWII

- Ended the Great Depression
- Migration to the American West
- New economic opportunities for women and people of color
- Brief unity and ongoing racism
- Defeat of Nazis and crippled Germany
- Destroyed Europe
- U.S. and Soviet Union became superpowers

### **THE COSTS OF THE WAR**

- U.S. lost over 300,000
- World suffered at least 60 million
- Over 25 million Russians alone died
- Over 10 million in death camps
- New fears arise after the war– fight to contain Communism– THE COLD WAR ERA!!

### **B- The six major strategies of the Cold War:**

- 1. Brinkmanship,
- 2. Espionage,
- 3. Foreign aid,
- 4. Alliances,
- 5. Propaganda,
- 6. Surrogate wars.

### **5-**

#### **A- Berlin Wall :**

- In the dark on August 13, 1961, a low, barbed-wire barrier rose between East and West Berlin. Within days, workers cemented concrete blocks into a low wall, dividing neighborhoods and families, workers and employers, the free from the repressed.
- The USSR called the wall a barrier to Western imperialism, but it also was meant to keep its people going to the West where the standard of living was much higher and freedoms greater.
- The West Germans called it *Schandmaur*, the "Wall of Shame." Over the years, it was rebuilt three times. Each version of the wall was higher, stronger, repressive, and impregnable. Towers and guards with machine guns and dogs stood watch over a barren no man's land. Forbidden zones, miles wide, were created behind the wall. No one was allowed to enter the zones. Anyone trying to escape was shot on sight.

#### **B- Cuban Missile Crisis :**

- This was the closest the world ever came to nuclear war. The US armed forces were at their highest state of readiness ever, and Soviets in Cuba were prepared to launch nuclear weapons to defend the island if it were invaded.
- In 1962, the USSR lagged far behind the US in the arms race. Soviet missiles were only powerful enough to be launched against Europe but US missiles were capable of striking the

entire Soviet Union.

- In April 1962, Soviet Premier Khrushchev deployed missiles in Cuba to provide a deterrent to a potential US attack against the USSR.
- Meanwhile, Fidel Castro was looking for a way to defend his island nation from an attack by the US. Ever since the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, Castro felt a second attack was inevitable. Consequently, he approved of Khrushchev's plan to place missiles on the island. In the summer of 1962 the USSR secretly installed the missiles.
- The crisis began on October 15, 1962 when reconnaissance revealed Soviet missiles under construction in Cuba.
- After seven days of intense debate within the White House, Kennedy imposed a blockade around Cuba to stop the arrival of more Soviet missiles.
- On October 22, Kennedy announced the discovery of the missiles and his decision to blockade Cuba and that any attack launched from Cuba would be regarded as an attack on the US by the USSR and demanded that the Soviets remove all of their offensive weapons from Cuba.
- October 27 was the worst day of the crisis. A U-2 spy plane was shot down over Cuba.
- Tensions finally began to ease on October 28 when Khrushchev announced that he would dismantle the installations and remove the missiles, expressing his trust that the US would not invade Cuba.
- Further negotiations were held to implement the October 28 agreement, including a US demand that Soviet bombers be removed from Cuba, and specifying the exact form and conditions of US assurances not to invade Cuba.

6-

### **A- The characteristics of modernism:**

**Modern Period writers** were affected by

- World War I, World War II, fear of communism, and the beginning of the Cold War
- Roaring 20's, the Great Depression, commercialism
- increased population
- lingering racial tensions after slavery and Reconstruction
- technological changes
- rise of the youth culture
- fear over eroding traditions
- **Modern writers** are known for
  - themes of alienation and disconnectedness
  - frequent use of irony and understatement
  - experimentation with new literary techniques in fiction and poetry:
    - stream of consciousness
    - interior dialogue
    - fragments
  - trying to create a unique style
  - rise of ethnic and women writers

### Another answer:

- Basics of the Literary Time Period
    - Two World Wars and a Great Depression marked this era.
    - The devastation of WWI brought an end to optimism. People were left feeling uncertain and disillusioned; they did not trust the ideas and values that once characterized our country.
    - The quest for new ideas occurred in the world of literature, and modernism was born.
    - Modernist authors sought to capture the essence of modern life in both the form and the content of their work.
    - Modernists constructed their works out of fragments. Poets abandoned traditional forms and meters, in favor of free verse.
    - Themes of their works were usually implied, rather than directly stated, making readers draw upon their own conclusions.
    - Modernist works demanded more from readers.
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### B- The characteristics of post-modernism:

- The **Postmodern Period** includes
  - unprecedented prosperity
  - global conflict--Korean War, Vietnam War, the end of the Cold War, the rise of terrorism, Gulf War, 9/11, Iraqi War. War in Afghanistan
  - social protest—the civil rights movement, the women’s rights movement, the gay rights movement
  - mass culture and consumerism; media saturation
  - rise of technology and space exploration
  - the digital revolution
- The best adjective for this literary period is eclectic—a collection of a little bit of everything.
- Postmodernists create traditional works without traditional structure or narrative.
- The writings have increasingly addressed social issues related to gender and race and youthful rebellion.
- Questioning of “traditional values”—insistence that values are not permanent but only “local” or “historical”; media culture interprets values
- The writings are often critical and ironic, concentrating on surface realities and the absurdity of daily life.
- There are no heroes; anti-heroes are common
- Often detached, unemotional
- Individuals often seem isolated.

### Another answer:

- Basics of the Literary Time Period
  - WWII and Holocaust were hurting the meaning of life
  - Influenced by the growth of informational technology
  - Loss of trust in author’s irrational thoughts
  - Less confidence that work is unique – culture continually copies itself
  - Interest in work as process and how it evolves
  - Loss of belief that work is immortal

- Belief that fine art can be a cartoon
- Works consisting of dialogue alone
- Works that blend fiction and non-fiction
- Experimentation of the physical appearance of a work
- Essence of contemporary life in works
- Impersonal and commercial nature of today's work

7-

### **A- The U-2 Incident:**

- USSR was aware of American U-2 spy missions but lacked technology to launch countermeasures until 1960.
  - May 1, 1960: CIA agent Francis Gary Powers' U-2, was shot down by Soviet missile.
- Powers was unable to activate plane's self-destruct mechanism before he parachuted to the ground, right into the hands of the KGB.
- When US learned of Powers' disappearance over USSR, it issued a cover statement claiming that a "weather plane" crashed after its pilot had "difficulties with his oxygen equipment." US officials did not realize:
  - Plane crashed intact,
  - Soviets recovered its photography equipment
  - Captured Powers, whom they interrogated extensively for months before he made a "voluntary confession" and public apology for his part in US espionage

### **B- The Bay of Pigs Invasion:**

- The Bay of Pigs Invasion was an unsuccessful attempt by US-backed Cuban exiles to overthrow the government of the Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.
- Increasing friction between the US and Castro's communist regime led President Eisenhower to break off diplomatic relations with Cuba in January 1961.
- Even before that, however, the CIA had been training anti-revolutionary Cuban exiles for a possible invasion of the island.
- The invasion plan was approved by Eisenhower's successor, John F. Kennedy.
- On April 17, 1961 about 1300 exiles, armed with US weapons, landed at the *Bahía de Cochinos* (Bay of Pigs) on the southern coast of Cuba hoping for support from locals.
- From the start, the exiles were likely to lose. Kennedy had the option of using the Air Force against the Cubans but decided against it.
- Consequently, the invasion was stopped by Castro's army. The failure of the invasion seriously embarrassed the Kennedy administration.
  - Some critics blamed Kennedy for not giving it adequate support
  - Others blamed Kennedy for allowing it to take place at all.
- Additionally, the invasion made Castro wary of the US He was convinced that the Americans would try to take over the Cuba again.

## Part 2

### 2- Complete TEN only of the following sentences:

- 1- In WWI, ...23... states fought against Germany, while 3... fought on its side.
- 2- Nicknamed "Star Wars," the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was proposed by President Regan in 1983.
- 3- Before the Second World War, the international climate was that of an unstable world as there were Global Depression, New Countries in Europe, (Inter)National Debt, U.S., Japan, German Expansion and No International Organizations.
- 4- The term " McCarthyism" lives on to describe anti-Communist fervor, reckless accusations, and guilt by association.
- 5- Before the end of the World War II, Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt met at Yalta to plan what should happen when the war ended. They agreed to ..... , ..... and .....  
The establishment of the United Nations  
Division of Germany into four zones  
Free elections allowed in the states of Eastern Europe  
Russia's promise to join the war against Japan  
No agreement was reached on Poland.
- 6- The Cold War lasted from 1945..... to 1990.... and it totally ended with the dissolve of the Soviet Union in 1991
- 7- Realistic writers are divided into Transitional writers, Civil War writers , Local color writers and Mainline realistic writers.
- 8- The main causes for the failure of the League of Nations were ..... , ..... and .....

#### The students choose only three from the following:

- 1- League of Nations wrongly made part of the Peace Settlement of the First World War.
- 2- Non- association of U.S.A. with League.
- 3- Lack of universal character.
- 4- Different attitudes of states towards League.
- 5- Organizational defects.
- 6- Narrow nationalism, which encouraged the states to continue their imperialistic policies and, thus, greatly contributed to the collapse of the League of Nations.
- 7- Impact of Economic Depression.
- 8- Failure of disarmament.
- 9- Lack of faith in League: the members of the League of Nations did not have full confidence in the League.
- 10- Hostility of some states towards the league.
- 11- Finally, it has been contended that the league failed because it was much ahead of its time.

- 9- As a movement, Naturalism was affected by the views of three authors whose scientific or political works appeared near the end of the century. These were Charles Darwin , Sigmund Freud, and Karl Marx.



- 10- The **Eisenhower Doctrine** required Congress to yield its war-making power to the president so that the president could take immediate military action.
- 11- Imagists were a subgroup of **Lost Generation** writers whose poetry concentrates on creating **a word picture** and **a snapshot of a moment in time**.
- 12- Better relations between communist countries and the US began with one of the most hard-lined anti-communist presidents, **Richard Nixon**.

### Part 3

#### 3- Write True (✓) or False (✗):

- 1- Civil War writers follow in the footsteps of the earlier local color writers in their focus on the South. ✗
- 2- The Treaty of Versailles was subjected to much criticism because it was economically very harsh towards Germany and it contained the seeds of the Second World War. ✓
- 3- Realistic authors believed that nature is a powerful force beyond man's control. ✓
- 4- The Triple Entente, later known as the Allies, consisted of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. ✗
- 5- Local color writers experimented with new poetic techniques such as free verse and slant rhyme. ✗
- 6- While SALT II froze the number of ballistic missile launchers at existing levels, SALT I was the first nuclear treaty seeking real reductions in strategic forces. ✗
- 7- The characters in the Naturalistic works are often helpless victims—trapped by nature, the environment, or their own heritage. ✓
- 8- Cold War tensions increased in the US when the USSR exploded its first hydrogen bomb in 1949, and it further increased in the USSR when the US exploded its first atomic bomb in 1952. ✗
- 9- Postmodernists create traditional works without traditional structure or narrative. ✓
- 10- After WWI, the U.S. implemented a policy of “containment” or keeping communism within its existing boundaries and preventing further Soviet aggression. ✗
- 11- The Confessional Poets countered the hidden despair of the 1950s with wildly exuberant language and behavior. ✗
- 12- The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan became the USSR's Vietnam. ✓
- 13- Lost Generation writers emphasized accurate portrayals of the physical landscape as well as the habits, occupations, and speech of the area's people. ✗
- 14- In modernist writings there are no heroes; anti-heroes are common. ✗
- 15- Realistic authors seek “verisimilitude” by portraying “a slice of life” as it really is. ✓

**With best wishes**

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