

Second Year English Literature Exam (Semester Two)

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Part I: "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

1. What does the writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman achieve by allowing the wife to tell her own story? 2P

The writer allows the wife to tell her story to protest against the patriarchy, against the suffocating domesticity of motherhood and marriage. "The Yellow Wall-Paper" serves as a critique of women's position in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> c in general and the "rest cure" treatment in particular.

2. The narrator yearns to write and to have company, but she believes that "He would as soon put fireworks in my pillow as to let me have those stimulating people about now" How does this image show John's attitude towards the narrator's attempts towards normalcy? 2P

\_\_ This shows that John would dismiss her inner desires and needs because he is typical of the Victorian rational manhood. He believes that she suffers from a nervous disorder and eventually, dismantles the narrator's attempts towards normalcy.

3. At first glance, the narrator describes her husband as careful and loving. Aside from this, is there another perspective? 2p

\_\_ Yes there is another perspective which occurs in him constantly laughing at her to the point where the narrator begins normalising it as she says " he laughs at me but one expects that in marriage" The narrator is used to being treated as a child and it is socially acceptable.

\_ John is very condescending towards his wife. He denies her the very thing she thinks will make herself well; write and have the company of her friends

4. In "The Yellow Wallpaper," is the narrator reliable or unreliable? Can we believe everything that she says? Why or why not? 2p

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\_The narrator in "The Yellow Wallpaper" is unreliable because she cannot determine reality from hallucinations

5. What does the narrator mean by "I got out at last" 2p

\_as a woman, she is no longer trapped behind conventional expectations of the patriarchal society.

### Part II: "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner

1. In the opening paragraphs of the story, the author speaks of buildings and structures, describing Miss Emily as a "fallen monument". What does this mean? 2p

She was the last person trying to resist against modernization and preserves southern traditions. Hence, she will be remembered as a monument.

2. In "A Rose for Emily," Faulkner does not rely on a conventional linear approach to present his characters' inner lives and motivations. Why is this? 2.5

Because a fragmented style of writing is typical of the modernist period in which this story was published. In this story there is no chronological order of events and there are constant leaps in time. Often, writers use a fragmented style of writing that tends to fit in with the fragmentation of the individual's psychology or certain historical conflicts etc.

3. Identify and explain the conflict in this story.

The conflict in this story is mainly internal as Emily struggles to let go of her past. The internal conflict can also be seen in the townspeople as they seem to welcome change but at the same time feel nostalgic for the past. 2p

The conflict can also be external between south and north (historical) 1.

4. There is a room upstairs that no one has seen in forty (40) years. After Miss Emily's funeral, the door to it is broken down. What do the townspeople find there? 2.5

folded wedding clothes of Homer (Homer's belongings)

Homer's corpse

a long strand of iron-gray hair lying on the pillow