

Second Year English Literature Test (Semester two)

Name:

Group

1. "I must perish in this deplorable folly. Thus, thus, and not otherwise, shall I be lost. I dread the events of the future, not in themselves, but in their results. I shudder at the thought of any, even the most trivial, incident, which may operate upon this intolerable agitation of soul. I have, indeed, no abhorrence of danger, except in its absolute effect—in terror. In this unnerved, in this pitiable, condition I feel that the period will sooner or later arrive when I must abandon life and reason together, in some struggle with the grim phantasm, FEAR." **What does Usher say is his biggest fear? what expectations does this set up about Usher's fate? 3P**

1. His biggest fear is going mad

2. This means that the Usher's family is likely to perish and fade as a result of their mental illness.

2 Why did Roderick ask the narrator to come and visit him? 2P

Roderick asked the narrator to come and visit him because the narrator is his only friend, hence, he asked for his company to try and help him overcome his physical and mental illness.

3. The narrator says "On one of the staircases, I met the physician of the family. His countenance, I thought, wore a mingled expression of low cunning and perplexity". (Poe 3)  
**What does this statement foreshadow? 2.5**

This foreshadows the fact that there is a sort of mysterious illness and possible death in the house of Usher.

4 How does Poe link Family and mansion together in this story? 2.5P

by identifying the decaying and oppressive atmosphere of the mansion with the family itself, Poe suggests that the family is also decaying and foreshadows terrible events to come.

5. One of the pictures that Roderick has painted presented "the interior of an immensely long and rectangular vault or tunnel". **In your opinion, what does the vault or tunnel represent? 3P**

The Vault and tunnel represent a tomb and this foreshadows the burial of Madeline alive in the vault of the mansion; as if Roderick has been planning his sister's burial.

1. 6. In “The Fall of the House of Usher,” Poe includes a set of verses “**The Haunted Palace**” written by Roderick. How does this poem contribute to the story’s theme? Do they share any similarities?**3P**
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Both poem and the short story’s events contribute to the same theme of haunting. In the poem it is stated that some "evil things" are influencing its occupants. This is reflected in our short story in which Roderick Usher seems to be haunted by some unnamed "evil things." Which turns out to be his family secret.

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7. What does the narrator see as he is riding away from the house of Usher? What does the ending of the story imply? **3.**

       He sees the crack of the house widening which indicates a total collapse of the house of Usher, hence the collapse and perishing of the Usher’s family name.

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8. Imagine you were the Narrator. What would you have done differently? **1P.**

**Accepted all answers except of those who confused the narrator with the writer.**

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