

Correction of the Exam Paper : Roman Africain / 2020 – 2021

Part One

I-The correct answer

- 1) B
- 2) D
- 3) B
- 4) B

II – Short notes or definitions of the following:

Let's define each of these literary terms with some further explanation to help you get them well :

1. Plot:

- **Definition:** The plot is the sequence of events that make up a story. It typically includes the exposition (introduction of characters and setting), rising action (development of the conflict), climax (the turning point or the most intense moment), falling action (events following the climax), and resolution (the conclusion or resolution of the conflict).

2. Point of View:

- **Definition:** Point of view (POV) refers to the perspective from which a story is told. It involves the narrator's position in relation to the story being told. Common points of view include:

- First Person: The narrator is a character in the story (uses "I").
- Second Person: The narrator addresses the reader directly (uses "you").
- Third Person Limited: The narrator is outside the story and knows the thoughts and feelings of one character.
- Third Person Omniscient: The narrator is outside the story and knows the thoughts and feelings of all characters.

3. Theme:

- **Definition:** The theme is the central idea or message that a work of literature conveys. It is the underlying concept or insight about life or human nature that the author wants to express. Themes are often abstract and are explored through various elements of the story, including characters, plot, and symbolism.

4. Character:

- **Definition:** Characters are the individuals who participate in the events of a story. They can be human or non-human, and they drive the narrative forward through their actions and interactions. Characters typically have traits, motivations, and undergo development or change throughout the course of the story. There are different types of characters, including:

- Protagonist: The main character around whom the story revolves.
- Antagonist: The character or force in opposition to the protagonist.
- Round Characters: Characters with complex personalities and undergo development.
- Flat Characters: Characters with limited traits and don't undergo significant development.

III- What is the difference between a dynamic and static character ?

The terms "dynamic character" and "static character" are used to describe different types of characters in a narrative, particularly in terms of their development or change over the course of a story. Here's the difference between dynamic and static characters:

1. Dynamic Character:

- **Definition:** A dynamic character is one who undergoes significant internal change, growth, or development throughout the course of a story. This change is often related to the character's experiences, conflicts, or interactions within the narrative.

- **Key Features:**

- Experiences a transformation, whether it's a shift in beliefs, values, or personality.
- Learns from the events in the story and evolves as a result.

- The internal changes contribute to the character's overall development.

2. Static Character:

- **Definition:** A static character, on the other hand, remains relatively unchanged throughout the narrative. Their personality, beliefs, and values remain consistent from the beginning to the end of the story.

- **Key Features:**

- Does not undergo significant internal change or growth.
- Often serves a specific role or functions to maintain stability in the story.
- May provide a contrast to dynamic characters by highlighting their changes.

In summary, the key difference lies in whether a character undergoes significant internal changes (dynamic) or remains largely unchanged (static) as the story progresses. Both types of characters serve important roles in storytelling and contribute to the overall narrative structure.

IV – Discuss the major relationship between literature and society.

The relationship between literature and society is intricate and multifaceted, with literature often reflecting, influencing, and shaping societal values, beliefs, and norms. This dynamic interaction between literature and society has existed throughout history and continues to play a significant role in contemporary culture. Here are some key aspects of the relationship between literature and society:

1. Reflection of Society:

- Literature serves as a mirror that reflects the social, cultural, and historical contexts of its time. Through characters, settings, and narratives, literature captures the complexities of human experiences and societal structures. It provides insights into the prevailing ideologies, norms, and challenges of a given society.

2. Social Commentary:

- Many works of literature serve as social commentary, critiquing and questioning societal issues. Authors use their writing to explore and shed light on issues such as inequality, injustice, discrimination, and political unrest. Literature can provoke thought, challenge the status quo, and contribute to social awareness and change.

3. Cultural Identity and Diversity:

- Literature plays a crucial role in preserving and expressing cultural identity. It reflects the diversity of human experiences, offering a platform for voices that may be marginalized or underrepresented. Through storytelling, literature helps communities articulate their values, traditions, and unique perspectives.

4. Formation of Values and Morals:

- Literature has the power to shape and influence individual and collective values. Through moral dilemmas, ethical choices, and depictions of right and wrong, literature contributes to the ethical and moral framework of a society. It can instill empathy, compassion, and a sense of justice in readers.

5. Educational Tool:

- Literature is often used as an educational tool, offering insights into historical events, cultural contexts, and diverse perspectives. Literary works can be studied to understand different periods, societies, and the evolution of human thought. They provide a means for transmitting knowledge and fostering critical thinking skills.

6. Influence on Social Movements:

- Literature has played a significant role in various social movements throughout history. Works like Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches have influenced public opinion and contributed to social change. Literature can inspire activism, challenge injustice, and mobilize communities.

7. Entertainment and Escape:

- Literature also serves as a source of entertainment and escapism, providing individuals with the opportunity to explore imaginary worlds, experience different cultures, and temporarily escape the challenges of everyday life. This aspect of literature contributes to the overall well-being and enjoyment of society.

In summary, literature and society are interconnected in a dynamic and reciprocal relationship. Literature reflects the world around it, provides commentary on societal issues, and, at the same time, has the potential to shape and influence the values and perspectives of individuals and communities. The exchange between literature and society contributes to the rich tapestry of human culture and intellectual discourse.

Part Two

Topic : Discuss the cultural diversity and religious conflicts in Chinua Achebe's *No Longer at Ease*.

"No Longer at Ease" by Chinua Achebe explores cultural diversity and religious conflicts in post-colonial Nigeria. The novel delves into the tensions arising from the clash between traditional African values and the influence of Westernization, as well as the interplay between various religious beliefs.

Cultural Diversity:

1. Traditional vs. Western Values:

- The protagonist, Obi Okonkwo, embodies the clash of traditional Igbo values and the impact of Western education. Educated in England, Obi returns to Nigeria with a Westernized worldview that often conflicts with the expectations of his traditional Igbo community.

2. Customs and Social Expectations:

- The novel portrays the complexities of Igbo customs and social expectations. Obi faces challenges in navigating the intricacies of traditional practices, especially concerning marriage and family obligations.

3. Language and Identity:

- Achebe incorporates the use of Igbo language in the narrative, emphasizing its importance in preserving cultural identity. The tension between English, the language of the colonizer, and Igbo reflects the broader struggle for cultural autonomy.

Religious Conflicts:

1. Syncretism and Indigenous Beliefs:

- The novel explores the syncretism of indigenous beliefs with Christianity. Traditional rituals and practices coexist with Christian doctrines, reflecting the adaptability and resilience of African spirituality in the face of external influences.

2. Missionary Influence:

- The impact of missionary work is evident in the novel, with Christianity playing a significant role in shaping the lives of the characters. Obi's Christian beliefs, acquired during his education in England, interact with the traditional religious elements present in his community.

3. Conflict between Tradition and Modernity:

- Religious conflicts are heightened as characters grapple with the tensions between traditional beliefs and the imposition of Western religions. This conflict is especially evident in the generational gap, where younger characters, like Obi, may question or challenge traditional practices.

4. Corruption and Moral Dilemmas:

- The novel also explores the ethical dilemmas faced by Obi as he grapples with corruption within the bureaucratic system. His struggle reflects broader questions about morality, accountability, and the influence of both traditional and religious values on individual choices.

By *E-learning.*

Contact : +228 79 83 62 19

In "No Longer at Ease," Chinua Achebe provides a nuanced portrayal of cultural diversity and religious conflicts in post-colonial Nigeria. The novel engages with the complexities of identity, the clash between tradition and modernity, and the enduring influence of both indigenous beliefs and Western religions. Through Obi's journey, Achebe invites readers to reflect on the challenges of navigating cultural diversity and the impact of historical and religious legacies on individual and communal lives.