Lecturer: Mr A. Boulegroune Module: Lit. Theory & Criticism Level: Master 1 (Lit. & Civ.)

Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra **Faculty of Letters and Languages** Dept. of English Language & Literature

Date: 31 January 2023 Locale: Room 17 (STF) <u>Timing: 09.40 – 11.20</u>

Student's Full Name: Group №:

MODEL ANSWER OF THE FIRST-SEMESTER RESIT EXAM

ACTIVITY I:

Write TRUE or FALSE next to each of the statement below. Correct the wrong statements by rectifying the wrong details (Do not rewrite the wrong sentences in the negative form!).

1. Hamartia is the term which means the hero's recognition of his tragic flaw. FALSE (00.50 point)

Correction: Hamartia is the term which means the flaw of a tragic hero that leads to his downfall. (01.00 point)

- 2. Literary criticism builds specific systems of literary interpretation. TRUE (00.50 point)
- 3. Defamiliarization is a concept that is associated with Russian Formalism. TRUE (00.50 point)
- 4. New Critics believed that Critics should attempt to paraphrase texts in order to find out what they mean. FALSE

(00.50 point)

<u>Correction</u>: New Critics believed in the heresy of paraphrase. (01.00 point)

5. According to Plato, no fixed stable meaning is possible. FALSE (00.50 point)

Correction: According to Deconstructionists, no fixed stable meaning is possible. (01.00 point)

6. According to Aristotle, the basic purpose of art is to entertain people. **TRUE** (00.50 point)

7. For Aristotle, the most important element of tragedy is character. FALSE (00.50 point)

Correction: For Aristotle, the most important element of tragedy is plot. (01.00 point)

8. Deconstructionists criticized the way western philosophers viewed the world in terms of binaries of opposed

concepts. TRUE (00.50 point)

ACTIVITY II:

Use Plato's theory of mimesis in order to judge and evaluate the poem below.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine And twinkle on the milky way, They stretched in never-ending line Along the margin of a bay: Ten thousand saw I at a glance, Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. The turquoise waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee: A poet could not but be gay, In such a jocund company: I gazed — and gazed — but little thought What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie In vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude; And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth

Model Answer:

Plato's theory of mimesis is based on the idea that reality is found in the realm of ideas, not in the world of objects. That is why he criticized arts because artists attempt to imitate reality twice. In doing so, their works of art become twice removed from reality. In other words, they use the imperfect concrete in order to represent the perfect abstract reality. Plato, in fact, wanted artists to directly approach reality and make their works of art more philosophical. William Wordsworth's I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud, the concrete daffodils are used by the poet to represent the abstract ideas of beauty and happiness. In the beginning of the poem, the poet is depicted as lonely and mentally detached from his natural environment. It is only when he comes across the daffodils that he begins to connect with his natural environment. Certainly, the beauty and rhythmic dancing of these flowers draws his attention. However, he realizes that the pleasure that emanates from immediate physical contact with the daffodils does not satisfy him as a poet. The spiritual communion with nature will be achieved later on via the power of imagination, not through sensory channels. The poet's recreation of the image of the daffodils through memory and imagination provides him with pleasure and happiness. Hence, Wordsworth's ideas about the superioty of the power of imagination and memory over sensory images seems to be in accordance with Plato's view that poetry should directly approach abstract ideas. All in all, in glorifying the recreation of the sight of the daffodils through imagination in the final stanza, Wordsworth renders the feelings of beauty and pleasure closer to reality.

Criteria of Assessment:

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