



The English Language and Literature Dept.  
Fourth Year  
Subject: American literature  
Second Term—Exam Time Limit: 2hrs—Second Term  
2024-2025



The First Question

Write full commentary on ONE of the following suggested topics

- 1- Materialism vs. Spirituality with reference to one of literary works you studied during the course
- 2- Themes of Racism and Oppression in African-American literature with reference to Toni Morrison's fiction
- 3- The Falsity of the "American Dream" as a common theme in American Literature with reference to works you studied during the course.
- 4- "Child Abuse" with special reference to Toni Morrison's Narrative technique.

The Second Question

Comment fully on ONE the following quotations

A)

Clifford Odets

Joe: Don't want to sit. Every birthday I ever had I sat around. Now it's time for standing. Poppa, I have to tell you— I don't like myself, past, present and future. Do you know there are men who have wonderful things from life? Do you think they're better than me? Do you think I like this feeling of no possessions? Of learning about the world from Carp's encyclopedia? Frank don't know what it means—he travels around, sees the world! (Turning to Frank) you don't know what it means to sit around here and watches the months go ticking by! Do you think that's a life for a boy of my age? Tomorrow's my birthday! I change my life!

B)

I always knew she didn't like touching me. I could tell. Distaste was all over her face when I was little and she had to bathe me. Rinse me, actually, after a halfhearted rub with a soapy washcloth. I used to pray she would slap my face or spank me just to feel her touch. I made little mistakes deliberately, but she had ways to punish me without touching the skin she hated [...].

Conclusion

Best Wishes

