

## GENERAL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

- 1.- What makes North American short story so unique and characteristic?
- 2.- Which are the historical reasons for the emergence of the short story in the USA?
- 3.- Who was the first theoretician of the short story in the USA and which are the basic principles of his theories?
- 4.- Which are the principal roles that Washington Irving played during his life & why?
- 5.- Describe the dialogue, characters, symbolism and time in "Rip Van Winkle", relating these with the real life of the author and the life of North Americans in general.
- 6.- Which are the main topics, characters and literary technique in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", within its historical-literary context?
- 7.- Describe the personality of Nathaniel Hawthorne and the projection in his works.
- 8.- How would you describe the principal topics, characters and literary (linguistic) features of the story "Young Goodman Brown" especially as regards Puritanism, guilt, and symbolism?
- 9.- Which readings can we make of the story "The Minister's Black Veil" and why?
- 10.- Compare the stories "Rappaccinni's Daughter" and "The Bell Tower", and locate them in their historical-literary context.
- 11.- Compare the objectives of the stories "The Minister's Black Veil" and "Young Goodman Brown". Describe their points of contact and their contrasts.
- 12.- Explain the author's world vision (philosophy) in "Rappaccinni's Daughter", supporting your views on the characters' treatment in the text.
- 13.- Describe the story "Ligeia" in literary and cultural terms, according to Poe's world and supporting your arguments with examples from the text.
- 14.- Explain the story "The Cask of Amontillado", within the historical-literary context of its production, and illustrating your arguments with the message, symbolism and, especially, the literary and linguistic characteristics.
- 15.- Describe the literary techniques of "Bartleby, the Scrivener", relating these with irony, narrative structure, dramatic quality, and the historical context.
- 16.- Describe the most important historical events in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 17.- Explain the literary and artistic trends of the period right after the Civil War and before the First World War, and their relation with European literature/tradition.
- 18.- Which is Melville's form of creation? Which is his world vision?
- 19.- Describe the message of the story "The Bell Tower" and relate this to the historical period/moment? Which is the function of classical allusions in this story?
- 20.- Compare Melville's characters with Poe's. Indicate the most important characteristics of both, supporting you arguments with the texts, literary techniques and objectives of both authors within their historical contexts.
- 21.- How would you describe Bierce's biography, especially in relation with his work?
- 22.- Explain and exemplify Bierce's literary (linguistic) technique employed in "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge", as well as his points of view on the war.
- 23.- Describe Bierce's technique employed in "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge", as well as his points of view on the war, illustrating your arguments with the text and biographical data over the author's life.
- 24.- Describe the principal consecutions of Bierce's style in "Oil of Dog" and "The Man and the Snake", giving some examples of his literary (linguistic) technique, characters and topics.
- 25.- What is the literary impressionism? Explain its basic characteristics, especially the ones that contrast with realism and naturalism in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 26.- What is the most peculiar in the life and the work of Stephen Crane?
- 27.- Describe and illustrate with examples from the text the literary (linguistic) technique of "The Open Boat", as regards the world vision of the narrator(s).
- 28.- Compare "The Open Boat" and "The Blue Hotel". Explain the influences, similitudes and contrasts in relation with the literary technique, Crane's world vision and the historical context.
- 29- Explain the historical context of Sherwood Anderson's production and his influence in the author and his work.
- 30.- Interpret "The Untold Lie" through its characters and their relationships, and indicate Anderson's main consecutions within his historical-literary context.
- 31.- Explain the principal literary characteristics of "I'm a Fool" in relation with Anderson's ideas and narrative technique, characters, action, etc.
- \*Or other more specific/concrete questions, such as the humor, the use of flash back, Puritanism, the narrative construction, the treatment of characters in a certain text, etc.