

**Sample Questions**  
**Subject- English**  
**Paper- 304**  
**Studies in Race and Gender**

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**Short answer type questions.**

The Negro Speaks of Rivers:

1. What does Langston Hughes use as a metaphor for African American identity and history in this poem?
2. How does Hughes convey the timeless nature of African American history?
3. What role do rivers play in connecting different generations and cultures in the poem?
4. What is the overall tone or mood of "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"?

Daddy by Sylvia Plath:

1. What are some key symbols and imagery used in "Daddy" to represent the speaker's relationship with her father?
2. How does Plath explore themes of power and control in the poem?
3. What emotions does the speaker express towards her father throughout the poem?
4. How does Plath use language and poetic devices to create a sense of intensity or emotional turmoil?

Hope is a thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson:

1. What is the central metaphor used in "Hope is a thing with feathers"?
2. How does Dickinson depict hope as a resilient force?
3. What role does the bird imagery play in conveying the concept of hope?
4. How does Dickinson's use of language and structure contribute to the overall meaning and impact of the poem?

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe:

1. What is Okonkwo's tragic flaw, and how does it affect his life and relationships?
2. How does Achebe explore the clash between traditional Igbo culture and colonial influences in the novel?
3. In what ways does Achebe challenge Western stereotypes about Africa and Africans through his portrayal of characters and events in the book?
4. How does Achebe depict the consequences of cultural change and imperialism on individual lives and society as a whole?

Orlando by Virginia Woolf:

1. How does Woolf explore themes of gender and identity in "Orlando"?
2. What is the significance of Orlando's transformation from male to female in the novel?

3. How does Woolf challenge conventional notions of time and reality in the narrative?
4. What role does history play in shaping Orlando's experiences and understanding of self?

An Image of Africa by Chinua Achebe:

1. What specific criticisms does Achebe raise about Joseph Conrad's portrayal of Africa and Africans in "Heart of Darkness"?
2. How does Achebe argue for a more accurate and nuanced representation of Africa in literature?
3. What impact does Achebe believe Conrad's depiction has on perpetuating harmful stereotypes about Africa?
4. In what ways does Achebe suggest that racism is embedded within the narrative structure and language of "Heart of Darkness"?

We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie:

1. What are some key arguments or ideas presented by Adichie in her essay?
2. How does Adichie define feminism and its relevance to both men and women?
3. What personal anecdotes or examples does Adichie use to illustrate her points about gender inequality?
4. How does Adichie address intersectionality and the importance of inclusive feminism in her essay?

Gertrude Talks Back by Margaret Atwood:

1. How does Gertrude challenge traditional interpretations of her character from Shakespeare's Hamlet?
2. In what ways does Atwood use humor and satire to subvert the original text?
3. What are some key themes or ideas explored by Gertrude in her monologues?
4. How does Gertrude's perspective provide a fresh insight into the events and characters of Hamlet?

**Long answer type questions.**

1. In "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes, what is the central theme or message of the poem?
2. How does Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy" explore themes of paternal figures and power dynamics?
3. What is the central metaphor in Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope is a thing with feathers," and what does it symbolize?
4. What are some of the key themes explored in Chinua Achebe's novel "Things Fall Apart"?
5. How does Virginia Woolf's novel "Orlando" challenge traditional notions of gender and identity?
6. In his essay "An Image of Africa," what critiques does Chinua Achebe make regarding Joseph Conrad's novel Heart of Darkness?

7. What are the main arguments presented in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's essay "We Should All Be Feminists"?
8. In Margaret Atwood's play "Gertrude Talks Back," how does she give voice to Gertrude, a character from Shakespeare's Hamlet, to challenge traditional interpretations?
9. In "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," how does Langston Hughes use rivers as a metaphor for African American identity and history?
10. What are some key symbols and imagery used by Sylvia Plath in her poem "Daddy"?
11. How does Emily Dickinson convey the concept of hope in her poem "Hope is a thing with feathers"?
12. What role does Okonkwo's tragic flaw play in Chinua Achebe's novel "Things Fall Apart"?
13. How does Virginia Woolf explore themes of gender and sexuality in "Orlando"?
14. What is Achebe's criticism of the portrayal of Africa and Africans in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness in "An Image of Africa"?
15. How does Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie argue for gender equality and feminism in her essay "We Should All Be Feminists"?
16. In Margaret Atwood's play "Gertrude Talks Back," how does Gertrude challenge traditional interpretations of her character from Shakespeare's Hamlet?