Fayoum University

Faculty of Education

English Department

Poetry Exam

Fourth Year

January, 2010

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

I. Write short notes on the following poets:

a) Alfred, Lord Tennyson

b) Emily Dickinson

II. Write a full commentary on the following Poems:

- a) Because I could not stop for death by, Emily Dickinson.
- b) The Man he killed by, Thomas Hardy.

III. Answer the following questions on "Tears, Idle Tears" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson:

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean, Tears from the depth of some divine despair Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes, In looking on the happy Autumn-fields, And thinking of the days that are no more.

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,
That brings our friends up from the underworld,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.

Ah, sad and strange as in dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awakened birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Dear as remembered kisses after death, And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feigned On lips that are for others; deep as love, Deep as first love, and wild with all regret; O Death in Life, the days that are no more.

- a) Why are tears described as "idle"?
- b) Explain:
 - 1. the contrast in the first and third stanzas.
 - 2. the symbol in "autumn".
 - 3. the meaning of "the death in life".
- c) Draw two different figures of speech.

IV. From "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost:

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim Because it was grassy and wanted wear, Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had trodden black. Oh, I marked the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

- 1) Comment on the symbolism in the poem.
- 2) What is the significance of the use of "a sigh"?
- 3) Define the rhyme scheme.

