Of Things Past

Paper 2 Questions

1. In what ways and to what effect do at least two of the works you have studied explore the conflict between public and private interest?
2. “ Fiction is by its nature artificial: if provides a means of conferring shape, pattern and order on chaos.” To what extent do you find this statement to be true of at least two works you have studied?
3. Explore morality as a driving force in at least two works you have studied.
4. In what ways and to what effect have at least two of the works you have studies employed elements of exaggeration or a sense of the grotesque in their portrayal of character, setting or action?
5. To what extent is that which is man-made a concern in at least two of the works you have studied?
6. How far and to what effect do at least two of the works you have studied make use of individual or multiple voices to articulate key ideas?
7. In what ways are at least two works you have studied interested in the portrayal of psychological, physical or some other kind of violence?
8. In what ways and for what reason do the works of prose fiction you have studies seek to present thought or interior consciousness? In your answer you should refer to at least two of the works you have studied.
9. “Fiction is an essentially rhetorical art- that is to say the novelist or short-story writer persuades us to share a certain view of the world for the duration of the reading experience.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? In your answer you should refer to at least two of the works you have studied.
10. Authors are aware of the power of their works to shock the reader. Referring to at least two of the works you studies, explore some of the methods they employed to do this.
11. In what ways and to what effects do at least two of the works you have studied make use of one or more aspects of the natural world as a significant motif?
12. Texts frequently present two or more realities, which are often very difficult. Referring to at least two works you have studied, show to what extent and in what ways writers have made use of the interest and tension this creates.
13. “ a writer is always being asked ‘for whom do you write?’.” Discuss the author’s sense of his or her audience in at least two of the works you have studied.
14. “where other people exist genuine individuality is never possible.” To what extent does this statement reflect the experiences of the central characters and the problems encountered by them in at least two of the works two have studied.
15. Discuss the ways in which to at least two of the works you have studied have sought to undermine or interfere with the “voices” of their characters in order to persuade, manipulate, or instruct their audience.
16. Discuss the role of education and/or learning in at least two of the works you have studied.
17. Literature often deals with the themes of coincidence, chance, or accident. To what extent, and in what ways, have at least two of the works you have studied dealt with all or any of these ideas?
18. Often in fictional work the writer increases interest by accelerating the pace and intensity of events. How effectively has this or other aspects of the pace of a work been used by at least two of the works you have studied?
19. Being single or being married are conditions that have often played a role in shaping the lives of fictional characters. In at least two of the works you have studied, discuss the ways in which writers have used material to develop their narratives.