Kafrelsheikh University Faculty of Education Department of English



Research Questions in Literary Criticism (1st Year) The Academic Year (2019-2020)

Based on the course you have studied this semester; write a well-developed essay <u>on only one</u> the following topics:

- 1. Aristotle's *Poetics* as the earliest surviving work of dramatic theory and first extant philosophical treatise to focus on literary theory.
- 2. In terms of Aristotle's *Poetics*, to what extent the character of "Oedipus" can be conceived as a tragic hero.
- 3. How plot and characterization in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* exemplify the Aristotelian tradition in his *Poetics*.
- 4. Cathartic elements in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*.
- 5. Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* stands clearly for the plot as discussed in Aristotle's *Poetics*.
- 6. The plot of *Oedipus Rex* is a straightforward interpretation of a Greek myth. (Develop your essay with a specific reference to fate, free will and tragic flaw).
- 7. How themes, irony and motifs in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* contribute to the categorization of the play as a classical tragedy.
- 8. The six elements of classical tragedy as represented in Sophocles' Oedipus Rex.
- 9. The function of the chorus in Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*.

All Best,

Dr Islam Aly El-Naggar.