QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of education did V.Woolf receive?
2. What was the trauma of his life?
3. What was the Bloomsbury Group?
4. In which novel did V.Woolf experiment with new narrative techniques?
5. What is The Common Reader?
6. What makes of V.Woolf a Modernist novelist?
7. What kind of narrative techniques did she privilege and why?
8. What is the relationship between the inner and the outer world in her fiction?
9. Why is plot reduced to the minimum in her fiction?
10. What is the difference between J.Joyce’s and V.Woolf’s fiction?
11. What is a moment of being?
12. Discuss the most relevant narrative features in the extract Clarissa and Septimus

ANSWERS:

1. V.Woolf grow up in a literary and intellectual atmosphere and his education consisted of private Greek lessons and, above all, access to her father’s library, where she read whatever she liked.
2. The death of her mother brought about her first nervous breakdown. She began to revolt against her father’s tyrannical character and his idealization of the domesticated woman.
3. The Bloomsbury Group was a small, informal association of intellectuals and artists who lived and worked in the Bloomsbury area of central London. V.Woolf was one of the major exponents of this group. In their separate fields, they challenged Victorian values, which where founded on ideals of morality and respectability. They also questioned the conventional values of sexual and personal relations. They were not political in the ordinary sense of the world.
4. V.Woolf experimented her new narrative techniques in Mrs Dalloway (1925).
5. The Common Reader is a volume of literary essays where V.Woolf shows her talent in literary critic and brilliant essayist.
6. V.Woolf was interested in giving voice to the complex inner world of feeling and emotions and conceived the human personality as a continuous shift of impressions and emotions. If a writer can do that there is no plot, no conventions, no comedy or tragedy and not a single point of view. Life is considered a continuous.
7. So events were no longer important: what mattered was the impression they made on characters who experienced them. In her novel the omniscient narrator disappeared and the point of view shifted inside the characters’ minds trough flashbacks, associations of ideas and monumentally impressions presented as a continuous flux. Subjective reality is identified as a stream of consciousness. her narrative techniques is based on the fusion of the stream of consciousness into a third-person, past tense narrative.
8. She gives the impression of simultaneous connections between the inner and the outer world, the past and the present, speech and silence. So she avoid the chronological time and space giving voice to the inner time and space made up of flashback and looking forward. The time is seen like a duration.
9. Plot is reduced to the minimum because V.Woolf is interested in convey information about impressions and emotions of the characters and not their action in space and time.
10. Different from j.Joyce’s characters, who show their thoughts directly trough interior monologue and sometimes in an incoherent and syntactically unorthodox way, Woolf never lets her characters’ thoughts flow without control: she maintains logical and grammatical organization. While Joyce was interested in language experimentation and worked trough accumulation of details, Woolf’s use of words was almost poetic, allusive and emotional. Fluidity is the quality of the language which flows following the most intricate thoughts and stretches to express the most intimate feelings.
11. Similar to Joyce’s “epiphanies” are Woolf’s “moment of being”, rare moments of insight during the characters’ daily life when they can see reality behind appearances.
12. The novel opens with Clarissa in Green Park and in front of the flower shop. Woolf uses the narrative technique of the accumulation to illustrate what she sees and hears, what are her thoughts and remembers. She illustrates her feelings. Woolf tries to show the humanity of his characters behind their social mask. In this way she allows the reader to experience the characters’ recollection of their past, to providing a sense of background and personal history.