**ENGLISH WRITTEN TEST – SECOND TERM**

**VIRGINIA WOOLF**

1. V. Woolf’s father was an eminent Victorian man of letters. Thus, she grew up in a literary and intellectual atmosphere an, apart from a few courses at King’s College, London, her education consisted of private Greek lessons and, above all, access to her father’s library, where she read whatever she liked.
2. The trauma of her life was her mother’s death that caused her the first nervous breakdown when she was 13.
3. The Bloomsbury Group was a group made by intellectuals, writers and artist in Bloomsbury. Virginia Woolf entered it when she moved there after her dad’s death. It included the avant-garde of the 20th century. Their works and outlook deeply influenced [literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature), [aesthetics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesthetics), [criticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism), and [economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics) as well as modern attitudes towards [feminism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism), [pacifism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacifism), and [sexuality](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_sexuality).
4. The new narrative techniques were experimented in Mrs. Dalloway.
5. The common reader is a volume of literary essays where Woolf showed her talent in literary criticism. There she talks about the common reader, someone who reads just for the pleasure of reading and that doesn’t own the instruments for a deeper reading.
6. Woolf is a modernist because she is interested in problems caused by modernity. Besides her attention is focused on the inner life of the characters. Last but not least she uses modern narrative techniques, such as the stream of consciousness and beliefs in the coexistence of present and past in our interiority.
7. She privileged the narrative subjectivity: characters have fluid identities that change as the narrative progresses, reflecting the ways in which people in real life evolve as they mature. Besides Woolf’s stream of consciousness includes authorial interjections to guide the reader and shape the narrative. This type of stream of consciousness, called an indirect interior monologue, occurs in the third person. The 3rd narrative technique frequently used by Woolf is the free indirect discourse: it employs the techniques of stream of consciousness narration, but outside the stricture of interior dialogue. Last but not least, Woolf employs silence to profound effect in her narratives. She creates the impression of silence through the introduction of peripheral, nearly mute characters and the use of parenthetical asides to describe actions.
8. Woolf was interested in giving voice to the complex inner world of feeling and memory and conceived the human personality as a continuous shift of impressions and emotions. So the events that traditionally made up a story were no longer important for her; what mattered was the impression they made on characters who experienced them.
9. The plot is reduced to the minimum in her fiction because she believed that what really matters is character’s impression of daily events and not the events themselves. Indeed some novels last a day, but they are long because of Woolf’s interests in stream of consciousness and personal impressions.
10. As for J. Joyce, also V. Woolf, subjective reality came to be identified with the technique called *stream of consciousness*. However, differently from Joyce’s characters, who show their thoughts directly through interior monologue, Woolf never lets her characters’ thoughts flow without control, and she maintains logical and grammatical organization. While Joyce was more interested in language experimentations and worked through the accumulation of details, Woolf’s use of words was almost poetic, allusive and emotional.
11. Moments of being are acts experienced intensely and with awareness. It is a moment when an individual is fully conscious of his experience, a moment when he is not only aware of himself but catches a glimpse of his connection to a larger pattern hidden behind the opaque surface of daily life.