**SESSION SPRING 2024**

**PROGRAM BACHELOR OF ARTS SEMESTER I**

**COURSE CODE & NAME BA**

**SEM 2 - OBAE211 - World Literature**

**CREDITS 4**

**Assignment Set – 1**

**Questions**

**1. “Guy de Maupassant was the master of the short story. Considered as the greatest stylist of the short story, Maupassant wrote over 300 stories during his literary career, each unique in their form and plotting.” Comment on the above quote, discussing the style and contributions of Guy de Maupassant to World Literature.**

**Ans:**Guy de Maupassant, often hailed as a master of the short story, made significant contributions to world literature through his prolific output and distinctive style. Writing over 300 short stories, Maupassant's works are renowned for their precise prose, rich characterizations, and insightful examinations of human nature and society. Let's explore his style and contributions in detail.

**Style of Guy de Maupassant: Economy of Language:** Maupassant's writing is marked by its conciseness and clarity. He had a remarkable ability to convey complex emotions and

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**2. "O. Henry’s mastery of the “tear with a smile” writing style brought him recognition from the literary world. O. Henry was an expert in blending humorous and dramatic elements.” Discuss the above statement in the light of the story “A Service of Love” by O. Henry.**

**Ans:** O. Henry, known for his unique blend of humour and pathos, masterfully employed the “tear with a smile” writing style, which garnered him significant recognition in the literary world. This style, characterized by the interplay of comedic and dramatic elements, is vividly illustrated in his short story “A Service of Love.”

**Summary of “A Service of Love”:**

“A Service of Love” tells the story of a young couple, Joe and Delia Latrobe, who are deeply

**3. “The ending of ‘The Necklace’ is regarded by most scholars to be one of the most shocking in the history of the short story.” Discourse on the ending of “The Necklace” and how it impacts the theme and moral of the story.**

**Ans:"The Necklace,"** a short story by Guy de Maupassant, is renowned for its ironic and shocking ending, which profoundly impacts the story's theme and moral. The twist at the conclusion reveals the true nature of the necklace and the futility of the protagonist’s sacrifices, offering a poignant commentary on vanity, pride, and the consequences of dishonesty.

**Summary of “The Necklace”:** The story follows Mathilde Loisel, a woman of modest means who dreams of luxury and high society. Her husband secures an invitation to a

**Assignment Set – 2**

**Questions**

**4. Critically analyse the story “The Necklace” and its broader themes and social commentaries.**

**Ans:** "The Necklace," a short story by Guy de Maupassant, is renowned for its ironic and shocking ending, which profoundly impacts the story's theme and moral. The twist at the conclusion reveals the true nature of the necklace and the futility of the protagonist’s sacrifices, offering a poignant commentary on vanity, pride, and the consequences of dishonesty.

**Summary of “The Necklace”:** The story follows Mathilde Loisel, a woman of modest means who dreams of luxury and high society. Her husband secures an invitation to a

**5. “The tragic nature of Maupassant’s stories eerily mirrored the circumstances that characterized his own life and painful death.” Do you agree with the above statement? Answer with a biographical sketch of Guy De Maupassant.**

**Ans:**The statement suggests a correlation between the tragic nature of Guy de Maupassant's stories and the circumstances of his own life, particularly his painful death. While there are certainly parallels between Maupassant's life experiences and the themes of his stories, it's essential to examine his biography to understand the extent of this correlation.

**Biographical Sketch of Guy de Maupassant:**

**Early Life:** Guy de Maupassant was born on August 5, 1850, in Tourville-sur-Arques,

**6. "A relationship built on lies is doomed to fail”. Do you agree with this statement? Answer in the context of the story “A Service of Love”.**

**Ans:In the context** of "A Service of Love" by O. Henry, the statement "A relationship built on lies is doomed to fail" resonates deeply with the central theme of honesty and deception. The story follows the relationship between Joe and Delia Larrabee, a young couple deeply in love with each other.

However, their love is tested by the lies they tell each other to maintain the facade of financial stability. Throughout the story, Joe and Delia engage in deception to support each