**I WOULD GIVE MY SOUL!**

**COMPREHENSION**

EX. 2

1. Lord Henry tells Dorian that beauty is a form of genius (l.4), a higher form of genius because it needs no explanation (l. 4-5). In fact, everyone recognizes beauty immediately
2. He says that youth is short (l. 14) and it will finish soon
3. He invites him to live his youth, to search for new sensations and not to be afraid of anything (l. 23-24).
4. He tells him not to give his life to the ignorant, the common and the vulgar (l. 21-22). Aesthetes refuse what is common and vulgar, they look for what is wonderful and extraordinary.
5. This new age requires a new form of Hedonism, that is the pursuit of pleasure as the greatest goal in life (l.24-25). This new Hedonism will replace the moral values of the Victorian age
6. Dorian could be the visible symbol of this new Hedonism (l.25) because he is so beautiful

EX. 3

1. Dorian realizes how beautiful he is and that Lord Henry is right (l. 45-55). When Basil spoke to him about his beauty, he didn’t believe him and he wasn’t influenced by him (l.46-48), but Lord Henry is different, he is more charming and convincing, he has a stronger personality and his words, together with the picture, convince Dorian that he is really beautiful and that he must use this beauty and youth until they last
2. When Dorian sees the painting, at first he is happy and even surprised by his beauty because he wasn’t aware of it; he loves the picture (l.41-45). However, later he feels desperate because he thinks that he will get old and ugly soon (l. 52-55) and so he will lose everything.
3. Dorian knows that he will get old, while the portrait will remain young and beautiful
4. He wants the picture to get old instead of him. He is so desperate that he is ready to give anything, even his soul, for this

**ANALYSIS**

EX. 4

1. The narrator is third person, he doesn’t intervene in the story. In the first part (until line 39) Lord Henry’s point of view is adopted and the text speaks about Lord Henry’s ideas about beauty and youth. The second part is dedicated to Dorian’s reaction to the picture and to Lord Henry’s words and to his thoughts and feelings. To describe Dorian and his reaction, Wilde uses some imagery, for ex. in lines 55-56 Dorian’s pain is compared to a knife, in lines 57-58 his eyes are compared to amethyst (a precious stone) to underline their beauty, in line 59 his tears are compared to a mist and in lines 60-61 the writer speaks about a “hand of ice” on Dorian’s heart to stress the strength of his pain

EX. 5

1. The characters belong to the upper class, they are rich, so they don’t need to work. They are different from the respectable Victorian gentlemen.
2. Lord Henry is a typical dandy. He doesn’t take anything seriously (apart from beauty and youth) and he uses paradoxes, for ex. in line 11-12 he says that only empty people don’t judge by appearances. Usually people say the opposite, that is you shouldn’t judge by appearances, but for Lord Henry beauty (that is appearance) is the first value, it’s more important than anything else.
3. Lord Henry convinces Dorian that beauty and youth are the most important values. He makes Dorian forget moral responsibilities
4. In the text youth is connected with flowers (lilies and roses, l. 18). However, while flowers wither and then they blossom again the following year, people are different: when they get old, they can’t get back to their youth (l.31-34). Beauty is divine (l.7) and it transforms people into princes (l. 7-8). Old age is linked with physical and mental decadence, it’s horrible (old people are wrinkled and ugly, l.1, they are compared to horrible puppets, l.35), it’s hopeless (there will be no more triumphs, l. 15, and even the memories of a happy past will only make the present sadder, l. 16-17); finally, it’s full of regrets for the people who didn’t have enough courage to live their life fully (l. 35-37).

EX. 7

Lord Henry refuses the moral values of the Victorian age and he replaces them with beauty, youth and art and with a new form of Hedonism