I. Reading short stories 40%

Please choose one of the following selected short stories and analyze it in terms of the narrator’s viewpoint, the major characters, the symbol, the setting and the main theme. Each story has its own different emphasis: some focus more on the setting; some focus on its characters or the narrator’s reliability. Please give your answer in a short well-organized essay within 250 words.

A. Cathedral, by Raymond Carver (Please focus more on its major characters)  
B. Sonny’s Blues, by James Baldwin (Please focus more on its theme, racism)  
C. The Tell-Tale Heart, by Edgar Allan Poe (Please focus more on the narrator’s problem)  
D. A Rose for Emily, by William Faulkner (Please focus more on its symbol, the rose)  
E. The Storm, by Kate Chopin (Please focus more on its setting)

II. Reading poetry 30%

A sonnet is a fourteen-line poem in iambic pentameter with a delicately patterned rhyme scheme. Please identify the author of the following sonnet and analyze its rhyme scheme and discuss its major theme. (250 words)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
Oh, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth’s unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love’s not Time’s fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle’s compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

III. Reading drama 30%

A. What is the difference of Greek drama from Modern theatre in terms of its structure?  
Please compare and contrast the ethical act of the two famous female characters: one is Antigone in Greek Sophocles’ Antigone and the other is Nora in Norwegian Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll House. (250 words)