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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

STUDY MATERIAL

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE -II

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SUBMITTED BY

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CONTENTS

S.NO	UNIT	TITLE	PAGE NO
1	UNIT 1	AGE OF POPE	3
2	UNIT 2	AGE OF JOHNSON	12
3	UNIT 3	AGE OF WORDSWORTH	21
4	UNIT 4	AGE OF TENNYSON	35
5	UNIT 5	AGE OF HARDY AND THE PRESENT AGE	51

UNIT 1

THE AGE OF POPE

THE FIRST HALF 18 CENTURY 1700-1745

Two Marks

1. How „The Age of Pope“ is otherwise called?

The Age of pope is sometimes called the Classical Age and sometimes the Augustan Age of English literature.

2. What is Town Poetry?

Town Poetry is a shallow, superficial poetry.

3. What is the best example of a personal satire?

Alexander Pope“s „Dunciad“ is the best example of a personal satire.

4. What is the poetry of the adherents of the Augustans?

The poetry of the adherents of the Augustans is the product of intelligence, good sense, and reasonableness.

5. What is a narrative poetry?

Narrative Poetry is of considerable bulk, and contains some of the best productions of the Age. It is a poem that tells a story.

6. How did Pope handle the heroic couplet?

Pope handled the heroic couplet with great metrical skill, variation of speed and tone, and delicacy of touch.

7. What is The Rape of the Lock remarkable for?

„The Rape of the Lock“ is remarkable for flawless poetic craftsmanship, airy grace and sustained lightness of touch.

8. What is the purpose of the essay „An Essay on Man“?

The purpose of the essay is in Pope“s words to vindicate the ways of God to man.

9. How is the Dunciad constructed?

The Dunciad is a long and elaborate satire on „Dunces” the bad poets, pedants, and pretentious critics of Pope’s day.

10. How did Dr. Johnson reply when he was asked whether Pope was a poet?

Dr. Johnson replied “If Pope be not a poet; where is poetry to be found”.

11. What was the Age of Pope?

The Age of Pope was a rational, artificial, and prosaic age.

12. What is Matthew Prior’s first work?

Matthew Prior’s first work is a parody of Dryden’s „The Hind and the Panther”, entitled „The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse.”

13. What does John Gay’s The Beggar’s Opera contains?

It contains some pretty songs and much genuine but boisterous humour.

14. What is a satire on the society of Apothecaries?

Samuel Garth’s „The Dispensary” is a satire on the society of Apothecaries.

15. What did William Somerville’s poem The Chase imitate?

The poem the Chase imitated the „Churchyard School” of Poetry.

16. Why does Defoe enjoy an important place in English literature?

As a pioneer in journalism as well as in novel Defoe enjoys an important place in English Literature.

17. What was the main aim of Defoe’s review?

The main aim of Defoe’s Review was to acquaint the English people with the thoughts of Defoe on international politics and on commerce.

18. How is the Review described?

„The Review is described as being „a weekly history of Nonsense, impertinence, Vice and Debauchery.

19. How are Defoe's works of fiction called?

Defoe's works of fiction called „fictitious biographies“.

20. Who was Swift?

Swift was the most original prose writer of his time-the man of genius among many men of talent.

21. What are Swift's satires that rank among the finest prose satires in English Literature?

„The Battle of the Books“ and „A tale of a Tub“ take rank among the finest prose satires in English Literature.

22. What were well shown in Swift's The Gulliver's Travels?

Swift's inventive genius, his fierce satire, and his cruel indignation with life, were well shown in the Gulliver's Travels.

23. What are Swift's famous satires in the form of allegory?

The Tale of a Tub, The Battle of Books and The Gulliver's Travels are famous satires in the form of allegory.

24. What makes Swift the most powerful writer in the history of English literature?

Swift writes in „The Plainest of Plain Style“. This makes him the forceful writer.

25. Under which name did Steele write The Tatter?

Steele wrote under the pseudonym of Mr. Bickerstaff, which he borrowed from Swift.

26. What is The Spectator? Who founded it?

The Spectator is a periodical which Addison founded in collaboration with Sir Richard Steele.

27. How does Addison appear in The Spectator?

In the Spectator Addison appears as a consummate painter of contemporary life and manners.

28. What does Addison's Social criticism contain?

Addison's social criticism contains all the materials for the modern novel of social life.

29. What is John Arbuthnot remembered for?

John Arbuthnot is remembered for his political writings.

30. What did George Lillo establish?

George Lillo established a „domestic drama“ or form of tragedy, the characters and incidents of which were to be taken from common life instead from romance or history.

SHORT NOTES

1. THE AUGUSTAN AGE.

In Rome history the reign of Emperor Augustan Caesar [31BC-14AD] was a golden age. Ovid, Virgil and other great writers lived and produced their works. It is known as the Augustan age. Pope and other writers who lived in the beginning of the 18th century thought that their age was a golden age in English literature. So they called it Augustan Age. It is also called Neo-classical Age.

2. THE CLASSICAL OR NEO-CLASSICAL AGE:

Pope and other writers of the age were inspired by the greatest writers of ancient Greek and Roman literature. They imitated the classics. The classical writers gave importance to realism, organized forms, rules and regulations, polished intellect and wit in their style. The English writers of the first half of the 18th century cared for all these aspects of the classical style of writing. Therefore the age is called the classical or Neo-classical age.

3. THE SPECTATOR:

The spectator was a periodical run by Addison and Steele. It was published daily (except on Sundays) from March 1712. Later it was revived by Addison alone and issued three days a week from June to Dec 1714. The spectator is very important in English Literature. It started a new tradition of „THE PERIODICAL ESSAY“. It was written in simple prose and discussed various aspects of daily London life.

4. What is Defoe's contribution to English Literature?

Daniel Defoe (1660-1731) is one of the forerunners of the English novel. Defoe was a Journalist. He studied London life and sent reports to magazines. This experience contributed to the writing of his books. Defoe is best remembered for his book Robinson Crusoe. This book is supposed to be the diary kept by an imaginary sailor named Robinson Crusoe. He is shipwrecked and he reaches an unidentifiable, uninhabited island. After his landing on the island Crusoe makes a small boat for himself and reaches the ship and from the ship he carries a lot of things to the island. He finds a cave, makes a table and a stool; he discovers some native corn and cultivates it; he kills some birds and cooks them. These small details are given by Defoe in a simple, clear realistic prose style. Moll Flanders is the autobiography of an imaginary woman who had thrilling adventures in life and who had many husband. The two books of Defoe cannot be called novels in the strict sense of the term. But still they paved the way for the birth and development of the novella little later.

Essay s:

1. Write an essay on the characteristics of the poetry of the Augustan Age (The classical or Neo-classical Age)

Introduction:

In Rome history the reign of Emperor Augustan Caesar [31BC-14AD] was a golden age. Ovid, Virgil and other great writers lived and produced their works. It is known as the Augustan age and other writers who lived in the beginning of the 18th century thought that their age was a golden age in English literature. So they called it Augustan Age. It is also called Neo-classical Age.

Main characteristics:

- 1) Classical poetry is mainly the product of the intelligence playing upon the surface of life. Emotion and imagination are absent.
- 2) It is commonly satirical dealing with political and religious, controversies, attacking personalities and arguing about theories, policies and principles.

- 3) Romantic literature is not liked by the classical writers, Chaucer. Spenser and Shakespeare are not treated with sympathy.
- 4) It is a town poetry. Made out of the interests of society in the great centres of culture, simple life and poor people are neglected. There is no love of nature or landscape or country things.
- 5) Great attention is paid to outward form, finish and polish. It is written in an artificial stereotyped style.
- 6) The heroic couplet is the favourite mode of expression.

Conclusion:

The above are some of the main characteristics of the classical age. It gave greater importance to intellectuality, reasoning power and rationalism than to the power of imagination or love of beauty.

2. Comment on the achievements of Pope as a poet.

Introduction:

Alexander Pope the greatest master of the classical school of poetry was born in London. He was regarded as the letter of his day.

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) is remembered best for his mock epic *The Rape of the Lock*. His other works include *Essay on Criticism* and *Essay on Man*. *The Dunciad* and *Epistles* are good satires.

The Dunciad as a Satire:

Satire is an attack on one's enemy but this attack is usually mingled with humour in *The Dunciad* Pope attacks many of his enemies. Like Addison Pope observes and understands the weakness of his enemies and attacks them severely.

Epistle to or Arbuthnot:

Dr. Arbuthnot, a doctor and mathematician was a friend of Pope in the poem an „*Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot*“ Pope attacks third-rate poets and imitators.

The Rape of the Lock:

The Rape of the Lock remains the best mock heroic epic poem in the English language. A mock heroic adopts the style and conventions of an epic but the subject matter is silly and trivial not serious and noble there is enmity between

lady Belinda's family and lord Baron's family. Baron plans the clipping (cutting) of a lock of hair of Belinda and succeeds in his plan. The Rape of the lock employs supernatural powers and other epic conventions-pope was asked to write a satire in order to laugh two families out of enmity and pope succeeded in his venture.

The Essay on criticism:

The Essay on criticism is the crowning effort of the early poems of pope . Pope's admiration for the great classic writers (Homer. Virgil) is revealed in his work.

The Translation of Homer:

Pope translated the Iliad and odyssey (epics and Homer. Greek poet of 8th century BC) these translations show pope's reverence for the classical writers.

Pope's works:

Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot (1735) pastorals (1709), Essay on criticism (1711) Windsor Forest (1713) Rape of the lock (1712) Iliad (1720) Odyssey (1720) Dunciad (1728) Essay on Man (1732).

Conclusion:

Thus pope is still the unchallenged master the heroic couplet. He has given us a large number of memorable lines such as.

„A little learning is a dangerous thing“

„And fools rush in where angels fear to tread“

„To err is human; to forgive divine“

„The proper study of mankind is man“

„The right divine of kings is to govern wrong“

- 3. Discuss the development of modern prose in the 18th century? Write an essay on the contribution of Addison and Steele periodical essay in English?**

Introduction:

Some prose works were written in the Elizabethan Age. But the style was ornate and cumbersome. In the seventeenth century Milton and his contemporaries wrote a kind of prose that was highly Latinised in vocabulary and structure. But Dryden made prose clear, simple and easy to read and understand.

Addison and Steele and the periodical essay:

Steele first introduced the periodical the Tattler in 1709. In the essay the author laughed at the weaknesses and pretensions of men. After about 270 issues the Tattler came to an end in Jan 1711. In March 1711 Addison and Steele joined together and published the spectator daily except on Sundays till Dec. 1712. It was revived for six months in 1714 there are 635 essays of the spectator.

The spectator is an imaginary person who visits various parts of London and meets different types of people. He observes the manners, characteristics, tastes and attitudes of many individuals of the London society and records his own impressions. He is more a spectator of the events of the day than a participant in them.

The Merits of the spectator:

The aim of Addison and Steele was to provide light reading to the increasing reading public and at the weaknesses of men. The spectator essay was written in clear, simple style so that the common people could read and enjoy them. The aim of the writers was to bring philosophy from the heavens down to the streets. Addison and Steele invented imaginary men and women and attacked their weaknesses in a simple prose style filled with wit and humour. Sir Roger de Coverley is the most popular imaginary character. There are other characters too. Some of them are members of the imaginary spectator club. The character studies presented by the spectator paved the way for the birth of the novel in the next generation.

Conclusion:

Thus Addison and Steele have contributed enormously to the development of modern prose, clear, simple and easy style and provided material for light reading. The spectator is a remarkable milestone in the history of English literature. It introduced a new form of literature namely journalism.

4. Comment on the achievement of Jonathan Swift.

Introduction:

Jonathan swift (1667-1745) is the most powerful and original genius of his age. He was a misanthrope. He attacked mankind in matters of religion, politics and social life and manners. He had a very poor opinion of the English society and he satirised the English men in his Writings.

Satire:

The Battle of the books is an interesting book. It describes an imaginary between the ancient Greek and Latin authors on one side and the Modern British writers on the other. Swift supports the Ancients. There is bitter satire everywhere. He says: „Dryden’s house had more noise than speed.

Gulliver’s Travels:

Gulliver’s Travels is the best of swift’s books: children and adults can enjoy the story. Gulliver the imaginary sailor reaches an island. Lilliput where people are six inches high and later another island Brobdingnag where people are forty feet tall. There is another island where horses speak and are more intelligent than men: they control and treat men as slaves. In all these episodes; there is a deeper satirical meaning, Swift wants to point out that Whigs and Tories (political parties) in England are as foolish as the men of Lilliput.

Conclusion:

Gulliver’s Travels is not a novel, but it prepares the ground for it. Swift is one of the greatest satirists in English Literature.

UNIT 2

THE AGE OF JOHNSON

(The second half of the 18th c from 1745-1798)

Two Marks

1. What are the chief characteristics of the classical school of poetry?

It was mainly the product of the intelligence and was strikingly deficient in emotion and imagination. It had a romantic spirit with formal and artificial in style. It adheres to the closed couplet.

2. Write a note on Dr. Johnson's poems.

His chief poems are London and The Vanity of Human wishes. It has a pessimistic tone, didacticism, rhetorical style and adheres to closed couplet. The vanity of Human Wishes was written in imitation of the tenth satire of Juvenal.

3. Name the two important poems of Oliver Goldsmith.

Goldsmith's two important poems are The Traveller and The Deserted Village.

4. Write a brief note on the characteristics of Goldsmith's poetry.

Goldsmith's poetry represents the poetic tradition of pseudo classicism so far as the use of the heroic couplet and the stilted and pompous phraseology is concerned. Human sympathy and simplicity of expression are the characteristics of new poetry.

5. Write a short note on Dr. Johnson's "A Dictionary of the English Language".

Dr. Johnson took eight years (1747-55) to the work- A Dictionary of the English Language. He not only defines but also illustrates definitions by quotations taken from whole range of English literature.

6. Write a short note on Dr. Johnson as a critic

Johnson Lives, particularly if Milton, Gray and Prior present "unmistakable proofs of his inability to appreciate the higher kind of

poetry". He was exponent of Classicism and he condemned everything which did not conform to classical doctrines.

7. Give an account of Dr. Johnson's prose style.

His Prose style has been termed as „manly and straight forward", "distinct, individual, heavy and ponderous, full of mannerism, vigorous and forceful, wearisome but lucid".

8. What are the works of Henry Fielding?

His first novel „Joseph Andrews" (1742) began as a burlesque of the false sentimentality and the conventional virtues of Richardson's Pamela. It was followed in 1749 by the History of Tom Jones. His third great novel Amelia appeared in 1751.

9. Define sentimental comedy.

It is a kind of drama that appeared in the early years of the 18th century in reaction to immorality of the Restoration comedy of manners. Dramatic reality was sacrificed in an attempt to instruct through an appeal to the spectator's emotions. Virtue always triumphed.

10. Mention the works or novels written by Richardson?

Pamela is Richardson's first novel, followed by Clarissa, or The Adventures of a young Lady and Sir Charles Grandison.

Short Notes:

- 1. Write a note on the prose works during the age of Johnson.**

The tradition of the periodical was started by Addison and Steele in 1711. Samuel Johnson (1709-84) published the Rambler twice a week from March 1751 to March 1752 but Johnson wrote prose highly Latinised in vocabulary. Goldsmith (1728-1774) wrote a number of delightful essays known as the Citizen of the World (1760-62). These essays are in the tradition of Addison and Steele. They record the sympathetic understanding of human nature and contemporary London life. Some of the best prose works of Johnson's age were done in history. Hume (1711-16) and Robertson (1721-95) wrote history books. The greatest historian of the time was Edward Gibbon (1737-94). His book The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire remains one of the masterpieces of

historical literature of the world. Edmund Bruce (1729-97) was the great political thinker and writer of the age. His speeches on American taxation and on conciliation with America and his *Reflections on the French Revolution* are important works. Thomas Paine (1737-1809) supported the French Revolution in his *Rights of man*. Thus the prose of Johnson's age covered new realms and expanded its scope.

2. Discuss the place of Sheridan as a dramatist in English literature.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1813) is one of the major dramatists in English literature. He is best remembered for two comedies *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal*. The two plays are paring comedies, provoking laughter for the sake of laughter, though they have primary aim. Such comedies are known as anti-sentimental comedies. His characters are drawn from contemporary life. In both *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal* he satirises contemporary fads (fashion in dress, speech, behaviour which enjoys brief popularity and hypocrisies). His comedies deal with man-woman relationships and the love affair of gentlemen and ladies of a high social order there are plots, counterplots disguise and deceit. He has given comedy a new polish and decent verbal beauty to dialogue.

3. What is sentimental comedy? Discuss its essential features:

Sentimental comedy is a type of drama which gives importance to the expression of strong emotions and feelings of the characters. It started as a reaction against the Restoration comedy. In the beginning of the 18th century the emergence of the middle classes was an important event. Colley Cibber's (1671-1757) dramas started a new movement in English drama. Richard Steele (1672-1729) is the most remarkable writer of the sentimental comedy with greater finesse and charm. His plays are built on moralising principles. „*The tender husband*“ and „*The conscious lover*“ are some of his comedies. George Lillo (1693-1739) Edward Moiré (1713-1757) Hugh Kelly (1739-77) Richard Cumberland (1732-1811) all wrote sentimental comedies the exaltation (Praising, glorifying) of charity and philosophic preaching also mark the sentimental drama of the 18th century.

4. Define Anti-sentimental comedy and discusses its characteristics:

The expression of strong emotions and moral sentimental and philosophical preaching in drama characterised the sentimental comedy in English from about 1760 to 1770 Wilier, Steele, and other comedies and tragedies. But Anti sentimental comedy takes us back to the English comic tradition of Shakespeare's Romantic comedies here the main idea is laughter for its own sake. It is against any expression of strong feelings emotions and sentimental and also against moral and philosophic teaching .Oliver Goldsmith (1730-1774) and R.B Sheridan (1751-1816) are two of the dramatists who are associated with anti-sentimental comedy Hudson in his book an outline History of English Literature writers. Goldsmith two admirable comedies (the good natured man 1768 and she stoops to conquer 1773) are historically interesting because they mark a reaction against the dull moralising of sentimental comedy. Sheridan wrote two brilliant comedies the Rivals (1775) and the school for scandal (1777). In these anti-sentimental comedies there is interesting plot-humorous situation and wit and humour in dialogue. But the aim is not moral preaching and social reform the anti – sentimental comedies of Goldsmith and Sheridan are historically important.

Essays:

1. Account for the greatness of Dr. Samuel Johnson :

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709-84) was the greatest man of letters between pope and words worth. He was a great conversationalist and a dominating personality. He is described as the „charm of literature“ or „the great dictator“. Johnson lives in the pages of his biography written by his hero – worshipping friend James Boswell (1740-95).

Johnson's Dictionary:

He published a Dictionary of the English Language in 1755. Even though there were a few dictionaries before Johnson's time. Johnson's Dictionary was the first complete and authentic work. He illustrates each word with quotations from famous authors. His definitions are scholarly; some are extremely humorous or bombastic. His dictionary became so popular and so authoritative that fixed spelling and usage.

The Vanity of human wishes and Rasselas:

The vanity of human wishes is long poem it expresses Johnson's pessimistic view of life (sad view) Rasselas tells the story of a young prince of Abyssinia (now the African country Ethiopia) who sets out to discover the perfect way of life but fails .

Johnson's Edition of Shakespeare:

Johnson published an edition of a Shakespeare's play in 1765. The introductory essay preface to Shakespeare is of great critical importance. In those days the three unities (unity of action.....) Were transported from Italy and France and the three unities were strictly followed by dramatists. But Shakespeare has completely ignored the unities (except one or two plays) so Shakespeare plays were condemned or altered or mutilated by critics.

At this juncture Johnson gave a death blow to the three unities and established that Shakespeare is a great native genius and he need not be measured by the three unities imported from some other country.

Lives of the Poets:

„The life of the poets“ is another important and valuable work of Johnson. Life of Milton life of pope and other biographies can be read with enjoyment.

Conclusion:

Thus Johnson occupies a high place in the history of English Literature. He is a strong moralist and has strong views about character religion and politics. He has contributed enormously to English Literature.

2. Discuss Oliver Goldsmith's contribution to English literature:

Introduction:

Goldsmith (1728 – 1774) is one of the rarest writers in English literature. He contributed to each field of literature prose, essay, novel, poetry; He adorned and beautified everything he touched.

Prose:

He contributed essays to the periodicals his best essays were contributed to the public Ledger as „Chinese Letters“ as they were later collected and published as the citizen of the world. A Chinese philosopher Altangi visits London and records his impression of the English men and English life the man in black and Beau Tibbs are the memorable characters created by Goldsmith.

Novel:

The Vicar of Wakefield is the only novel Goldsmith wrote, yet it occupies a pride of place among English novels. It is delightfully readable, for its delicate characterisation. The vicar, Dr. Primrose himself wise and foolish at the same the novel is based on poetic justice virtue is rewarded and evil is punished.

Poetry:

The traveller and the deserted village are his poetical works; they are long poems in heroic couplets the deserted village pleads against the destruction of the simple country life and its joys, as a result of the depopulation of villages. The poem is famous for the village preacher and the village school master.

Drama:

The good natured man and she stoops to conquer are the two anti-sentimental comedies Goldsmith has written – Goldsmith wanted to take comedy laughter for its own sake in reaction against sentimental comedies the comedy arises out of mistaken situations and mistaken notions of the characters.

Conclusion:

Thus Goldsmith has contributed to every form of literature. He is also remarkable for he introduced a lot of his own experiences everywhere in his works and his own personality is reflected.

3. Who are the precursors (Predecessors of romanticism in the 18th century:

Introduction:

The poetry of the 2nd half of the 17th century and the 1st half of the 18th century completely ignored the country the simple folk and the beauties of nature. The classical poetry focussed its attention only on town life. Political and religious satire occupied a high place.

Atmosphere of Change:

In the 2nd half of the 18th century more poets began to express their own feelings and love of nature and love of freedom poetry gradually broke away from classical rules and began to turn more smoothly and originally.

Blake and Crabbe:

Blake (1757 – 1827) is one of the earliest of the romantic poets. Blake is a mystic and visionary. He felt the presence of God and the eternal spirit in everything he saw. Songs of innocence and songs of experience are well – known. George Crabbe pictures the life of the poor people and farmers in his poems. The village is his best known.

Goldsmith:

Oliver Goldsmith is another important pre – romantic poet. Goldsmith mourns the destruction of the country pleasures and the village life in his long poem „The Deserted village.“

Collins, Gray Burns and Cowper:

Interest in the pasts and the super natural aspects of medieval life is another aspect of romantic poetry. This is revealed in William Collins, Thomas Gray is remembered for his elegy written in a country church and this poem is historically important Hudson points out that the use of nature the churchyard scene, the twilight atmosphere all these help the development of a romantic mood . The contrast between the country and town is remarkable.

Robert Burns was a Scottish peasant who became the spontaneous interpreter of the thoughts, feelings, humour, philosophy, joys, sorrows, passions, superstitions and lawlessness of the Scottish peasants“ poet also wrote poems expressing his love of nature.

Conclusion:

This is the 2nd half of the 18th century. Poetry gradually changed from town to country from classicism to romanticism from intellect to imagination

Goldsmith, Gray, Collins, Burns and Cowper is some of the important pre – Romantics.

4. Trace the development of the English novel in the 18th century.

Introduction:

The word „Novel“ is derived from Latin through Italian „Novella“ which means „new story“ the novel only in the 18th c. By definition the novel is a fictional story but still realism is its predominant mark and it deals with contemporary. Social life Bunyan's pilgrim's progress, Defoe's imagined autobiographies, Swift's Gulliver's Travels and Addison and Steele's imaginary character studies paved the way for the novel.

Samuel Richardson:

Samuel Richardson (1689 – 1761) may be called the father of the English novel. In 1740 he published a book named Pamela. This is the first novel in English it tells the story of a rich mistress finally touched by Pamela's virtue and honesty. Pamela is written in the form of letters between the characters. It is called epistolary method Richardson later wrote Charles Grandison.

Fielding:

Henry Fielding (1707 – 54) is the greatest novelist of the 18th c. He adopted his own method of narration. He published Joseph Andrews in 1742. Tom Jones is the greatest novel of the 18th c the hero Tom Jones is a foundling brought up by a squire named „All worthy“. Tom Jones quarrels with him and novels on to London. He has some love affairs but finally marries Sophia western, his early level who is devoted to him. The novel deals with both country life and London on life.

Smollett and Sterne:

Tobias Smollett (1721 – 71) wrote Roderick random and Humphrey chinker. Laurancesterne is remembered for his Tristan Shandyharace Walpole wrote castle of ornate. It is a Gothic novel full of suspense, thrilling events, secret murder and discoveries Ann Radcliffe wrote the mysteries of uolopho and Matthew Gregory Lewis wrote the monk both are Gothic novels.

Features of the novel:

i) The novel is written in simple, easy prose, ignoring all classical and mythological scholarship and learning ii) It deals with contemporary social life. iii) The characters are ordinary men and women with all good qualities and weakness.

Conclusion:

The rise of the middle class the increasing reading public, women of leisurely classes all these led to the growth of the novel in the 18th century.

UNIT 3

The Age of Wordsworth (1798-1832) or The Romantic Movement

Two marks:

1) Which poems show a definite development in Wordsworth's conception of nature and human life?

The prelude or Growth of a poet's mind and Tintern Abbey show a development in Wordsworth's conception of nature.

2) What does Wordsworth describe in the book 1 of The Prelude?

In the Book 1 of the prelude Wordsworth describes his feelings and impressions of his childhood.

3) How does Wordsworth begin the second book of The Prelude?

Wordsworth begins the second book of The Prelude with a description of the tumultuous joy and eagerness of boyhood in its sports among rich and varied scenery.

4) What was the final stage in Wordsworth's poetic career?

The fourth period was the final stage which was the period of the Soul, when the poet's love of Nature became reflective, mystical and spiritual. This was the greatest period of Wordsworth's poetic life.

5) What does Wordsworth say about poetry?

Wordsworth says that poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings. Poetry is born not in the mind, but in the heart overflowing with feeling.

6) Where does Wordsworth go in search of the themes?

In search of themes Wordsworth goes straight to common life.

7) What does Wordsworth's theory of poetry and poetic diction represent?

Wordsworth's theory of poetry and poetic diction represents his aim to bring the language of poetry to naturalists and simplicity.

8) In which poem did Wordsworth follow his own theory?

Wordsworth followed his own theory of poems like Lucy Gray, Susan, The Leech Gatherer, Michael, etc...

9) What ideology was Coleridge influenced?

Coleridge was influenced by the ideology of French Revolution.

10) Where does the very centre of Coleridge's imagination lie?

The very centre of Coleridge's imagination lies in his faculty of evoking the mystery of things.

11) What are the Coleridge's poetic fragments which deal with supernatural element? Or what are Coleridge's three great poems?

Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is a poem founded entirely on super-naturalism. 'Christians' and 'Kubla- Khan', the two poetic fragments deal with supernatural elements.

12) What does sir Walter Scott represent in English Poetry?

Sir Walter Scott, the father of the historical novel in English Literature, represents the romantic love for the revival of the past, especially that of the Middle Ages.

13) In what way does Walter Scott successfully handle a wide variety of subjects?

Scott handles the subjects from the hearty gaiety of Waken, Lords and Ladies Gay or Bonny Dundee to the martial ardour of Pibroch of DonwilDhu or the moving, elegiac sadness of Proud Mairie.

14) What was Shelly?

Shelly was a transcendalist who was deeply influenced by Plato.

15) What is Robert Southey remembered for?

Robert Southey is remembered for 'Joan of Arc', 'Thelma the Destroyer', „The Curse of Kehama and Roderick', The Last of the Goths.

16) What is Thomas Moore's political satire?

Moore's political satire are the Two Penny Post bag , The Fudge Family in Paris and Fables Forth Holy Alliance. They reveal the liveliness and sharpness of

his Irish wit.

17) What is the real tragedy of Byron's life?

The real tragedy of Byron's life is that he died just as he was beginning to find himself.

18) How did Byron dedicate his life?

Byron dedicated his life to the cause of Greece, then struggling for freedom against the Turks, took the field and died in 1824.

19) What are Byron's masterpieces as verse satires?

Byron's *Bepus* and *The Vision of Judgement* are masterpieces as verse satires.

20) Which epic satire of Byron is upon modern society?

Don Juan is Byron's comprehensive satire upon modern society.

21) What are Byron's tales?

Byron's tales are *The Giaour*, *The Bride of Abydos*, *The Corsair*, *Lara*, *The Siege of Corinth* and *Parisina*.

22) What is Byron's place in literature?

Byron was one of the greatest romantic poets. He was indisputably one of the chief forces, who made a breach for romanticism in the fortress walls of custom and prejudice.

23) What are Shelley's lyrical pieces which exhibit his poetic genius?

Shelley's poetic genius exults in the lyrical pieces *The Skylark*, *The Cloud*, *Ode to the West Wind*, *Aretheusa*, *Hymn of Apollo*, *Ode to Liberty*, *Ode to Naples*.

24) Where does Shelley's idealism lead him?

Shelley's idealism leads him to live in a region of visionary dream and fancy, more than in the realm of reality.

25) What is to Shelley as to Plato?

To Shelley as to Plato, the impressions of the world of sense are dim shadows of things in a higher world, where the archetypes of all that we see in

this world exist in splendour and perfection.

26) What does Shelley says about the object of nature?

According to Shelley each object of nature has a separate and individual life, and each one again is linked with that one spirit working through all things.

27) What was Keats' first ambitious work? What is it based on?

Keats' first ambitious work was Endymion. It is probably based on Drayton's The Man in the Moon and Fletcher's The Faithful Shepherdess.

28) What did Keats feel in the sculptured wonders of ancient Greece?

The sculptured wonders of ancient Greece fascinated Keats' imagination. He feels in them the calm grandeur of Greek art, its symmetry and simplicity, and lastly its sense of proportion.

29) What is Hunt's best long poem?

Hunt's best long poem The Story of Rimini is an Italian tale modelled on Dante's lines on Paolo and Francesca.

30) How was Hood's Life?

Hood's Life was one protracted struggle against poverty and ill-health and of the work which he did under constant pressure of necessity.

31) What was most important feature of the history of prose literature during the age of Wordsworth?

The most important feature of the history of prose literature during the age of Wordsworth was the rise of modern review and magazine.

32) Who established The Edinburgh Review?

The Edinburgh Review was established in 1802 by Jeffrey, Sydney Smith and other prominent man of letters of the Whig party.

33) Who launched Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine?

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine was launched in 1817, by Wilson Lockhart and Haggis.

34) Who contributed to the London Magazine?

Lamb, Hazlitt, De Quincey, Allan Cunningham and Carlyle contributed to the

London Magazine.

35) On which works does Lamb's reputation as a critic rest?

Lamb's reputation as a critic rests on *Specimens of English Dramatic Poets Who Lives about the Time of Shakespeare*.

36) In which magazine did Lamb's first essay appear? When?

Lamb's first essay appeared in *The London Magazine* in 1820 under the name of Elia.

37) How were Lamb's essays published?

The first volume of essays was published as *Essays of Elia* in 1823. The second under the title „*The Last Essays of Elia*“ in 1833.

38) What do we find in Lamb's style?

In Lamb's style we find the abundance of allusions and quotations.

SHORT NOTES

1. Poetry in Romantic Age

The Romantic Age had certain distinct literary characteristics such as the pre-eminence of imagination, the profession of poetry, the arising of women novelist, the growth of magazines etc. The Augustan age was an age of prose. The Elizabethan age was one of drama. Poetry excelled all other genres in the Romantic age. Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Keats, Shelley, Scott, Moore and Southey were primarily poets. Charles Lamb's essays and novels of Jane Austen and Sir Walter Scott attained a very wide currency. Coleridge's critical essays also achieved eminence. Southey's prose is much better than his verse.

“Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive
But to be young was very heaven”.

It was an age of the sensationalism rise of Napoleon and the restoration of the Bourbon. The age of optimism and expectation passed away. The age of disorder and disappointment was succeeded. There was a huge difference in tone between the poetry of the earlier and that of the later revolutionary period.

2. Prose in Romantic Age

The new forms of literature have great encouragement to essay-writing and offered a fresh field for criticism of contemporary literature. The critic of the age divided into two groups -the conservative or classical and the radical or romantic. Fundamental changes appeared in prose. This prose was a characteristic product of its age in its imitations, excellence, clarity, grace and charm. The Romantic Movement brought with it strong passion and deep feeling and a love of variety, warmth and colour. There were three groups of writers. First those who are chiefly associated with the two great Edinburgh periodicals, second The London men and lastly those who do not belong to neither of these two heads.

3. Thomas De Quincy (1785-1859):

He was essentially a magazinist and the seventeen volumes of his collected works consist mainly of essays on a large variety of subjects. His style is marvellously rich and beautifully symbolic. His stories Joan of Arc, English mail Coach Dream Fugue are the examples for his great power of narrative description. His murder is considered as one of the fine arts achieved remarkable success. His confession of an English Opium Water is a fascinating autobiographical writing.

4. Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

Among these Lamb is one of the best beloved of English authors. As Southey said his memory will retain its fragrance as long as the best spice expended on the pharaohs. His ever delight writing is "Essays of Eliza". Lamb is as much as egotist as Montaigne. He writes almost his experiences and amenities in Canon Ainger's language. It is the man Charles Lamb that constitutes the charm of his written words he was a master of humour and pathos. The qualities of his works were 'Lambish'. His influence was strong in the development of romanticism. His taste is seen in his Elizabethan tragedy. His favourite writers are Burton, Fuller, and Sir Thomas Browne. He wrote for antiquity and his style was original.

5. William Hazlitt (1778-1836):

He was a best equipped and the most and a satisfactory critic. His best Criticism is contained in four collections of lectures is essays – Character of Shakespeare's play , The English Poets, The English Comic writers, and the dramatic literature of the Age of Elizabeth. He has been called The critic of Critics."

6. Lord Byron :

The eldest of three George Gordon, Lord Byron expressed the spirit of rebellion during his age. His work are voluminous that include Lyrics, satires, narrative, poem. Byron was supreme egotist. His poetry in a impression of monotony. His poetry is in a impression of monotony. As a critic and theorist he followed the Augustan school and admired pope. His practical influence was the side of romanticism. As a satirist, he is incomparably the greatest of modern English poets. Byronism denotes the spirit of gloom and unrest which is the characteristics in most of his writings. As a revolutionary poet he represents the destructive side of the movement, vanity of vanities is the keynote of his 'Vision and Judgement' He is a follower of liberty, which he sees in terms of pure individualism. The heroes of his romances are Pirates, corgairs, outlaws and Ishmaels. He idealises all, who are in revolt against society through his works. Hence he is a rebel against the condition of human life.

Works:

- 1) Hours of Idleness
- 2) English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.
- 3) Childe Harold's Pilgrimage
- 4) The Giaour, The Bride of Abydos, The Siege of Corinth, The Corsair- romantic verses
- 5) Manfred, Cain- greatest work.
- 6) Vision Of Judgement- a satire
- 7) Don Juan- unfinished work.

ESSAYS:

1. Life and works of Wordsworth:

William Wordsworth was born in 1770 at Cumberland. He spent much of his boyhood among the Shepherds Of his Native Country. He was educated at Lancashire and at Cambridge. In 1793, he published "An evening walk" and "Descriptive sketches" in which the regular classic couplet is used. His friendship with Coleridge was begun about 1796. He encouraged his genius. In 1798 Coleridge joined him in the publication of the "Lyrical Ballads". His autobiographical poem is "The Prelude". Wordsworth's work remained to the end a part of the great dramatic movement of his time.

Lyrical Ballads and Wordsworth's Theory of Poetry:

"Lyrical Ballads" which is an epoch making little book marks and it is the reason for the full development of both romanticism and naturalism. It included

two different kinds of poetry. The first one includes the incidents of the supernatural and the second includes the subjects chosen from ordinary life. Naturalism was represented by Wordsworth's "Good Blake", "The Thorn" and "The Idiot boy". The principal objects Wordsworth to choose incidents and situations from common life and describes them with colourful imagination. He always wrote about the humble and rustic life. Three points should be remembered. The first point in Wordsworth's choice of Subject was about Common life. This is seen in his descriptive poem "Michael". The second point is the theme which is rendered in simple language. The third point is his use of imagination in the poetic transformation of his materials. His comprehensive sympathies insistence upon the primary and essential qualities of human nature and his firm belief in natural manhood and selection of homely materials are the important features of him. The whole trend of his writing was towards the simplification of life, and the revolutionary spirit. The poetic diction is only another aspect.

Characteristics of Wordsworth's Poetry:

Wordsworth is our greatest poet of the country and natural life. As an Interpreter of nature he still holds the first place. His love of nature is endless. He wrote always with his eyes, steadily fixed upon his object. He has been called the keenest eyed of all modern poet for what is deep and essential in nature. In all his description "every touch is true". Lines of "Tintern Abbey" and "Ode on the intimations of immortality" that exhibit nature are the embodiment of the dune spirit. Wordsworth is essentially the poet of nature and a moralist. His emphasis upon spiritual forces within us, his philosophical poetry is "The excursion". He has given us the number of memorable lines such as

- 1) The child is father of the man.
- 2) Come fourth into the light of things let nature be your teacher.
- 3) The flower that smells the sweetest is shy and lowly.
- 4) Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.
- 5) What is pride? A rock that emulates the star.
- 6) We live by admiration, hope and love.

2. Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Samuel Taylor Coleridge was a friend of Wordsworth. His period is 1772-1834. He was a boy at Christ's hospital when the Bastille fell. He wanted to establish an ideal society in "America" which was a "Utopian" plan of revolutionary zeal. His life was a story of aimless wanderings and a failure. A man of high genius, he wanted will-power and slavery to opium which lasted many years, helped still further to paralyse his energies. Coleridge took the supernatural

as his particular area and treated in a purely poetic way. He saved naturalism from hard literalism. He saved supernaturalism from sensationalism by linking it with psychological truth.

His literary works:

- 1) Religious Musings
- 2) The Destiny of Nations
- 3) Ode to Departing year – (1796) these are political aspirations
- 4) France: Ode (1798) which he himself called as his 'Recantation'

Personal Poems:

- 1) Dejection an Ode
 - 2) Work without Hope
- (These two have a pathetic interest.)

Poems of Historical Importance:

- 1) The Ancient Mariner
 - 2) Cristobel
- (These represent the triumph of romanticism).

3. An Essay on the younger poets:

Introduction:

The younger poets were those who followed Wordsworth and Coleridge. They followed both in age and thoughts of the older poets.

Percy Bysshe Shelley:

Percy Bysshe Shelley is a revolutionary idealist in contrary to Byron. He is a "poetic prophet of faith and hope". He was nicknamed 'the mad Shelley' and was expelled for publishing a pamphlet on 'The Necessity of Atheism at Oxford. His poems fall into two divisions

.In the first place, the personal poems:

- 1) The Skylark. 2) The Cloud 3) The Sensitive Plant
- 4) Ode to the West Wind. 5) A Lament 6) Adonis- a splendid elegy on the death of Keats. 7) The Cenci- the romantic drama

The impersonal poems are:

- 1) Preface to the Revolt of Islam- a long narrative poem in Spenserian stanza. 2) Queen's mob- all institutions and marriage are condemned here.
- 3) Prometheus unbound- lyrical drama.

Shelley's genius (hero) was essentially lyrical, and his moods impressions, thoughts and emotions are embodied naturally in verse. As a lyrical poet, he ranks the greatest in ecstasy of feeling, grace, felicity of phrase etc. He is a dreamer of dreams.

John Keats

He was the last and youngest of the later revolutionary period. He was neither rebel nor utopian dreamer. Endowed with a purely artistic nature, he took up in regard to all the movement and conflicts of his time a position of almost complete detachment. As per him poetry is not the vehicle of philosophy religious teaching, or social and political theories but the incarnation of beauty. The famous opening line of 'Endymion', "a thing of beauty is joy forever" strikes the key note of his work. He has declared in one of his letters that he has loved the principle of beauty in all things. The past of Greek mythology is found in 'Endymion', 'Lamia' and fragmentary 'Hyperion'. The medieval romance is seen in 'The Eve of St. Agnes', 'Isabella' and 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'. His last volume comprising great poems like 'Ode to Autumn', 'Ode to Nightingale', and 'Ode to Grecian Urn' appeared in 1819. Keats is historically important for three reasons:

- 1) First: Regarding form and style, he is the most romantic poet in handling Greek theme with luxuriance of language. His entire rejection of the classic couplet is notable.
- 2) Second: More than any other poets of his time, he represents the exhaustion of the impulse generated by the social confusion and kind enthusiasms of the Revolution
- 3) Third: Finally his influence was very strong upon the poets of the succeeding generation with him poetry returns to the past and devotes itself to the service of beauty.

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5) Manfred, Cain- greatest work.

6) Vision Of Judgement - a satire

7) Don Juan- unfinished work.

Conclusion:

Thus Shelly, Byron and Keats are the younger poets of this age.

4. Write an essay on life and works of William Hazlitt.

Introduction:

Hazlitt was born at Maidstone in England in 1778. Hazlitt's has a prominent place among English essayists and critics. Hazlitt earned his living as a portrait painter on which he has also written an essay, „Essay on the Pleasures of Painting. After some years he took to Literature by writing essays. Hazlitt characteristics which made him an important essay writer was his philosophical mind and the analytical insight. His essays start with a striking opening and his essays are self revelation. His essays on Literature were published in „The Edinburgh Review', 'The Examiner', 'The Times' and 'The London Magazine'.

Hazlitt's Interests:

Hazlitt could write on painting as well as literature, on a prize fight, on natural landscape, ongoing a journey, on „coffee-house politician“ as well as on more formal topics such as Milton's sonnets, Sir Joshua Reynolds Discourses, and the fear of death“ are some works which exhibit the genius in Hazlitt.

Hazlitt's Philosophic Bent:

Hazlitt was a philosophical thinker. He always observed everything and painted them with words of deep thoughts. Hazlitt read the works of Bacon, Locke and Hume, all of whom influenced his thought quite considerably. He had comprehensive knowledge. On reason and Imagination, On egotism, On the past and future have deep and serious ideas.

Self-revelation:

As an essayist Hazlitt is not of the school of Addison or Dr. Johnson but of such writers as Montaigne (“the father of the essay”) and his own contemporary Lamb who used the essay as a vehicle for self-revelation. It is said that the perfect egotist is the perfect essayist which aptly suits Hazlitt.

But in his essay his indulgence in autobiography is always for the better, as it adds to them an intimate colour. Quite a few of his essays are built around reminiscences not, however, without the mortar of hard philosophic thinking.

Self-pity and Bitterness:

Hazlitt's life was as pathetic and jeremiad. He grew coarse, peevish, and bitter, as Lamb never did. Hazlitt reacts according to Mood. He is somewhat coarse and boisterous, often harsh and repellent. One after another Hazlitt quarrelled and broke with all his intimates including Lamb himself.

Style:

In considering the style Hazlitt's is representative. Hazlitt has a manner but no mannerisms. Hazlitt stands between the eighteenth century (for "terse clarity") and Macaulay (for "force and conciseness").

Conclusion:

His essays on Literature are contained in Shakespeare's plays, The English poets, The English Comic Writers and The Dramatic Literature of the Age of Elizabeth. His miscellaneous essays are contained in volumes like the Round Table, Table talk, Essays on Men and Manners, and The spirit of the Age. Hazlitt's literary criticism is based on any sound critical canons. He shows beauty even in hitherto unnoticed literary pieces. His English is simple and he does not use involved sentences.

5. Write an essay on the salient features of Jane Austen.

Introduction:

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775, at Steventon Rectory in Hampshire, England. . Jane Austen was the youngest of George and Cassandra's eight children - she had six brothers and one sister. Jane was very close to her sister, Cassandra, and her brother, Henry, who would later, became her literary agent.

Early life and education of Jane Austen:

Both the sisters were sent to Oxford and Southampton but due to Jane's illness they had return to their native. She lacked formal education but had self educated from her father's personal library. May still of her characters are taken

from the simple country people of her neighbourhoods. She had a good knowledge on navy as her brothers were in navy.

Works of Austen:

Beginning in her teen years, Austen wrote poems, stories, and comic pieces for the amusement of her family. She compiled several of the pieces she wrote between 1787 and 1793 into three bound notebooks, which scholars now refer to as Austen's "Juvenilia." Austen expressed an interest in drama and comedy; she often staged theatrical productions at home with her siblings. As she continued to experiment with writing, Austen became adept at parodying the sentimental and Gothic style of eighteenth-century novels. Among Jane Austen's early works is a comic novel with the deliberately misspelled title, "Love and Friendship," a satire of the "History of England," and "Lady Susan," an epistolary work. Austen's second novel was called *First Impressions*, now known as *Pride and Prejudice*. Next was *Northanger Abbey*, a satire of the Gothic literary genre.

The Austen family resided at Steventon until 1801, when Reverend Austen announced his retirement from the ministry. He then moved the family to Bath. Jane was unhappy about leaving her childhood home, which resulted in a sudden decrease in her productivity. During her time at Bath, Austen only made minimal revisions to her draft of *Northanger Abbey* and started (but soon abandoned) a fourth novel. After her father's death they moved from Bath to Chawton. While at Chawton, four of her novels were published anonymously: *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811, *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813, *Mansfield Park* in 1814, and *Emma* in 1815. In July of 1816, Austen completed the first draft of her next novel "The Elliot's." It was published as *Persuasion* later. In early 1816, Austen suffered illness and died the following year. Most biographers believe that she suffered from Addison's disease. Despite her illness, Austen continued to write, revising the ending of "The Elliot's" and starting work on "Sandition." She died at the age of 41 on July 8, 1817 and was buried at the famous Winchester Cathedral. *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published posthumously (as a set) in 1817. However, Austen was unable to finish "Sandition" before her death.

Austen's novels mostly focus on themes of courtship and marriage. However, her work stands out because of her sharp, satirical depiction of late 18th century English society. She is still one of the most studied and influential novelists of her time, largely because she was creating strong, unusual female characters during this period.

Conclusion:

As with many great authors, Austen died before she gained significant public recognition but over the past several decades, there have been more than 200 literary adaptations of Austen's novels, as well as numerous film versions.

UNIT 4

Age of Tennyson or The Victorian age

2 marks

1) How was the Victorian age marked out throughout?

The Victorian age was marked throughout by the prominence of the spirit of inquiry and criticism, by skepticism and religious uncertainty and by spiritual struggle and unrest.

2) What is the great deal that is noblest in Victorian literature?

A great deal that is noblest in Victorian literature was inspired by the desire to check the tendency, and to proclaim the eternal value of spiritual things.

3) How has Tennyson carved out a career for himself a permanent place in English poetry?

Tennyson is the representative poet of his age. The dominant element in Tennyson's thought is his sense of law. Tennyson's nature of poetry is original and bears the impact of contemporary science.

4) How did Tennyson study nature?

Tennyson study nature closely and knew it as well as Wordsworth, and like Wordsworth, he was always absolutely faithful in his rendering of even the minutest details.

5) How was Browning in contrast with Tennyson?

Browning was bold, rugged and altogether unconventional in matter and style. Though he was never careless in his writing, he was too be vehement and too impatient to bestow time and effort upon the polishing of his verse.

6) What is Browning's philosophy?

Browning's philosophy is the triumph of the individual will over all obstacles. The self is not subordinate but supreme.

7) How is Arnold regarded?

Arnold is regarded as the greatest religious poet of England. His elegiac spirit is like that of Gray rather than that of Milton or Shelley or Tempest.

8) How was William Morris considered?

William Morris was a man of versatile genius. He was considered as "poet, artist, manufacturer and socialist".

9) Why is Elizabeth Barrett Browning poetry frequently marked?

Elizabeth Barrett Browning poetry is often marked by over-wrought emotionalism, prolixity, diffuseness and gross abuses in diction and rhyme.

10) What are the outstanding qualities of Swinburne's poetry?

Music, melody, picturequeness are the outstanding qualities of Swinburne's poetry.

11) How was Christina Rossetti work characterized?

Christina Rossetti's work is characterized by deep religious feeling, a pronounced strain of mysticism, and much metrical charm.

12) What did Carlyle write on?

Carlyle was a versatile thinker and writer. He successfully wrote on philosophy, history, criticism and biography. He is considered as a sage in moral and political affairs.

13) What is according to risk in the characteristics of an artist?

Sincerity and truthfulness or essential for art. An artist should have a constant, direct, first-hand knowledge of nature. An artist must break down tyranny of convention and tradition. An artist must have a feeling of beauty.

14) What did Ruskin condemn? Why?

Ruskin condemned the rapid commercial and material expansion, because it militated against the rightness of feeling.

15) Why had Ruskin's aesthetic doctrine special importance?

Ruskin's aesthetic doctrine had special importance for its emphasis upon the need of a constant, direct, first-hand study of nature.

16) What are the two kinds of Macaulay's essay?

Macaulay's essay are of two kinds- those dealing with literary subjects such as Milton, Byron and Bunyan, and those dealing with historical studies, including his famous essay on Lord Clive and Warren Hastings.

17) What was Macaulay's approach to life based on?

Macaulay's approach to life was based on common sense and, unlike Carlyle

and Ruskin he had your firm faith in the "happy materialism" of his age.

18) How are Arnold's writing on literature found chiefly?

Arnold's writing on literature is to be found chiefly in his two volumes of Essay on Criticism, Mixed Essays, and Oxford Lectures on Translating Homer.

19) Who is the pioneer of realism in 19th century novel?

Dickens was the pioneer of realism in 19th century novel.

20) What qualities make Dickens a realist of high order?

Dickens power of minute and keen observation coupled with poetic imagination, retentive memory and remarkable instinctive power of reading character make him in a realist of a high order.

21) Who are the best characters in Dickens novel?

Dickens best characters are portraits from life, and the life that he knew best was lower class life.

22) What did Dickens tend to suspect in his Novels?

Dickens's tender to suspect all Institutions, churches, government offices, charitable institutions, laws, reformatories and even schools.

23) How is Thackeray's interest in character?

Thackeray's characterization is marvellously penetrative and truthful. His characters are true to life. They are painted in "the round" unlike Dickens' who are painted in "the flat". He gave life to characters.

24) What is Thackeray's place in Literature?

Thackeray's claim to greatness cannot be denied. Thackeray's did for "society" of the clubs, drawing rooms, and the well-to-do.

25) How does Thackeray write his novels in style?

Thackeray's style is effortless and unobtrusive. He writes like a cultivated gentleman, and his prose is polished, balanced, harmonious and flexible.

26) Mention George Eliot's early novels? What do they present?

George Eliot early novels are Adam Bede, The Mill on the Floss, Silas Marner and Middlemarch. They present the life of the Midland and countries of

Warwickshire and Derbyshire.

27) what was George Eliot concerned with?

George Eliot was concerned with great moral struggle beneath the surface of an existence which to the casual observer would seem dull and common place.

28) What are Anthony Trollope's famous novels?

The Warden, Barchester Towers, The Frameley Parsonage, and The last chronicle of Barset.

SHORT NOTES:

1. POETRY IN VICTORIAN AGE

The historical features of the Victorian age(1850-1900) are of special importance. It was an era of peace: The Victorian age was one of peaceful activity. It had material developments: Commercial activities were boosted in the Victorian age because of the expansion of markets world- wide. Also the many mechanical devices invented in this age gave a stimulus to commerce. Of course, industrial development gave rise to evils like proliferation of slums, worker's unrest , exploitation of child labour etc. These problems were reflected in the novels of Dickens and Mrs. Gaskell and called forth the missionary efforts of men like Kinsley. There were Intellectual developments: Darwin's origin of species produced an intellectual awakening. The main literary features of the Victorian age were that it supported extremely conventional morality. Men smoking in public and women riding cycles were considered serious offences and Tennyson represented this prudish morality in poems like „The princess“.

2. Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

Hopkins Poetry can be divided into three broad categories:

Poetry which is the direct expression of religious beliefs.

Poetry which has no direct relation to any such beliefs.

Poetry which is an expression of doubt.

The Poems that express Hopkins religious belief are deficient in Poetic quality. „Barnfoor and winepress“, “Nodum”, “Easter”, “Ad Mariam”, “Rosa Mystica” are strictly religious Poems.

3. Prose in the Victorian age :

a) Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

“Sartar Resartus”, “The life and srions of Herr Tenfelsdrockh”,” The French revolution”, “Oliver Cromwell“s Letter and Peaches”, “The History of Fredrick the great”, “Past and Present”, “On Heroes and ero-Worship, etc...

b) John Ruskin (1819-1900) Life

Ruskin was born in 1819. His boyish enthusiasm for the Paintings of William Turner developed into an ardent championship of that wonderful artist, then obscure and neglected. In the first volume of “Modern Painters”, Published in his twenty fourth year. Ruskin enshrined Turner as the greatest of English landscape Painters. He gradually developed an abstract theory of art. He published many works during the next sixteen years examining many types and schools of Painting. His Works were “The Seven Lamps of Architecture “and “Stones of Venice”, “Unto this Last” and “MuneraPulveris”. Ruskin“s most popular book “Sesame and Lilies” was a by-product of his thinking on Political economy. In the first division of the book, entitled “King“s Treasuries”, he censured England“s absorption in material success, as opposed to spiritual success “Forms Clavigera”. Ruskin“s earlier works are full of rhetorical touches. Towards the end of his career, he eschewed the “Customary burst of terminal eloquence” and used a base, Plain style. In “Unto this Last”“ for example, there are long sentences and balanced epigrams but the thrusts have become sharp, brief and rapid. In “MuneraPulveris”, a little later. The language has a Euclidean bareness and reminds us of Ruskin“s own drawings. “Sesame and Lilies” is a lecture and here he shows all the arts of the teacher, feeling the Pulse of the audience, laying out the matter ingeniously, and holding the attention by jest and interlude and by various amusing devices of stagecraft. The language is “Studiously lucid” and the eloquent digressions are as studiously prepared.

4. Write short notes on criticism, drama and fiction of Victorian age.

Arnold on literary criticism:

Arnold has a lofty conception of poetry. Religion has materialised itself in the fact. Science is incomplete without poetry as Wordsworth has said is the expression on the Countenance of all science. Science without Poetry is like an expressionless face. Our religion and science are mere false shadows.

Drama in the Victorian age: Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde's wit and humour are the outcome of the unconventional views on life that he expresses through his characters. The humour lies in the jolt experienced by the tradition bound reader.

Fiction: Charles Dickens

Dickens was born on February 7, 1812. He suffered a lot during his boyhood. He worked at a warehouse, labelling and blackening bottles. Even after his father was released, he did many odd jobs. Learning Shorthand, he became a reporter reporting on men and matters in a vivid manner. The skill that he developed as a reporter stood him in good stead when he had to describe scores in a moving as well as exciting manner. Dickens started serializing novels in the popular magazines of the time. "Pickwick Papers", a humorous, episodic serial gained him instantaneous fame. Dickens had an unquenchable passion for acting. This practice brought him not only applause but also much needed money. Dickens is a satirist par excellence. He attacks imperfect laws and social institutions in his novels. Dickens's humour is genial as well as satirical. His comic characters are mostly eccentrics and we laugh at their eccentricities and absurdities.

William Makepeace Thackeray:

Thackeray was born at Calcutta. He has his higher education in England. "The History of Pendennis" and "The History of Henry Esmond", "The New comes and the Virginians".

Bronte Sisters:

"The Professor", "Jane Eyre", "Wuthering Heights", "Agnes Grey and the Tenants of wild fall hall". "The Mill on the floss", "Silas marner", "Romola", "Middlemarch" and "The Spanish Gypsy".

George Meredith:

“The ordeal of Richard Fernal”, “Evan Harrington”. “The Egoist”, “The tragic Comedians and Diana of the crossways”.

5. The Pre Raphaelites

In 1810, two German painters Cornelius and Overbeck founded a society called Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. These two felt that the paintings before the Renaissance painter Raphael had sweetness depth and sincerity adherence to truth and love of nature. In 1848, in England, D.G Rossetti and two others started the Pre-Raphaelite Movement. Their poetry is called the Pre-Raphaelite poetry. Later on A.C. Swinburne and William Morris joined Rossetti. Rossetti's sister Christina Rossetti also wrote poetry under the influence of Pre-Raphaelitism.

The main features of Pre-Raphaelitism were the love of the middle ages romance chivalry and superstition. They believe 'Art for Art's sake'. Their poetry was characterized by vivid visual presentation almost like word painting. They had strong sense of music also.

ESSAYS:

1. LIFE AND WORKS OF TENNYSON:

INTRODUCTION:

Tennyson was born in the rectory of Somersby in Lincolnshire, in 1809. At the university he soon became known for his poetic ability.

Tennyson as a representative poet:

That Tennyson mirrored the ethos of his age is accepted by all. Tennyson being poet Laureate, he produced many occasional verses, which led to his being called the newspaper of his age.

Tennyson's love of order:

The Victorian age grew sick of the excesses of the French revolution. It believed in evolution and not in revolution. Order and discipline was the slogan of the day. This is reflected in many of Tennyson's poems. For example, the Lotus Eaters have grown weary of war and commotion.

Tennyson as a democrat:

Though Tennyson was an aristocrat by birth, he showed his democratic faith by depicting very poor people also in his poems. Whereas *The Princess*, *Maud* and *The Idylls of the Kings* are about the privileged and the highly placed, *Dora* and *Enoch Arden* are about the less privileged sections of society.

Tennyson as a feminist:

The bid for the emancipation of women was the most hotly debated question in the Victorian age. In his poetic drama *The Princess* Tennyson grapples with the issue of according women the status they deserve.

Tennyson's sensibility to the conflict between science and religion:

Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, occasioned by his friend Hallam's death, lives on, even though his body is gone. After a long-drawn out mental struggle the poet glimpses the presence of God and 'the one far-off', divine and towards which the whole creation moves. Thus Tennyson's poetry shows his response to some of the most vital social, religious and scientific questions of the day. He leans more towards the old than towards the new.

Nature in Tennyson's poetry:

Nature has been dealt with by various poets. Wordsworth's attitude to nature is mystical. Tennyson has no such mystic conception of nature. Yet, nature seems to reflect man's varying moods. *Ulysses* is vibrant in conformity with *Ulysses*' indestructible vigour. Tennyson's descriptions of nature are marked by scientific accuracy blended with poetic sensibility. What differentiates Tennyson from Wordsworth is that whereas the latter concentrates mainly on pleasanter aspects of nature, Tennyson has an eye on harsher elements also. He presents nature, 'red in tooth and claw'.

Tennyson as a lyric poet:

Tennyson has written a large number of lyrics. *The Princess* and *Maud* are interspersed with lyrics. Tennyson's lyricism is mainly due to his choice of words marked by vowel sounds and liquid consonants. Another aspect of Tennyson's lyrics is that all express his personal emotions even though they deal with subjects thematically unconnected with his life.

Tennyson's craftsmanship:

Tennyson's poetry like Spenser's has a pictorial quality. In *The Lady of Shalott* the island of Shalott appears before the mind's eye, as the poet mentions the river flowing across. Tennyson handled this difficult metrical form with great success. Tennyson is still read and remembered because of his merits as an artist.

2. An essay on Robert Browning:

Introduction:

Robert Browning was born in Camberwell on the outskirts of London in 1812. He is a pioneer of the literary form Dramatic Monologue. Browning's poetic powers matured rapidly during the second period, as may be seen in the vastly improved quality of his famous *Bells and Pomegranates* series (1841-1846). The noblest of Browning's works, belongs to this period. In 1842 Browning published *Dramatic Lyrics* followed by *Dramatic Romances* in 1845. Among the lyrics of these volumes the most significant are *Evelyn Hope*, *Porphyria's Lover*, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. Of the poems in *Dramatic Romances* the best known are the monologues *My Last Duchess* and *A Grammarian's Funeral* and the narratives, *The Italian in England* and *The Statue and the Bust*. *Dramatis Personae* (1864) also contain a profusion of dramatic monologues such as *Caliban upon Setebos*, *Bishop Blougram's Apology*, *Abt Vogler* and *Rabbi Ben Ezra*. *The Ring and the Book*, composed in 1868-69, is Browning's masterpiece.

Aspects of Browning's poetry:

The most striking aspect of Browning is the abundance and variety of characters that he has created. Painters, poets, musicians, scholars, ecclesiastics and lovers are prominent among his bizarre creations.

Browning as a writer of monologues:

The Bishop orders his Tomb, *A Grammarian's Funeral* and *My Last Duchess* are some of Browning's famous dramatic monologues. What Browning does in these poems is to take some dramatic moment in life, some crisis in the struggle between good and evil, and describe with wonderful insight the hero's own thoughts and feelings. The speaker in these poems unconsciously reveals themselves.

Browning's philosophy:

In all his poems Browning expresses his optimistic philosophy of life. It is often argued that, when there is so much evil in the world, there is no ground for an optimistic affirmation. But Browning's point is that evil has its own place in the total scheme of things. Browning has an unshakeable faith in the after-life. He believes that what is a broken arc in this life will become a perfect round in the next. He welcomes failures and imperfections because they are sure to be perfected in the next life.

3. LIFE AND WORKS OF MATTHEW ARNOLD[1822-88]

Introduction:

Matthew Arnold was the son of the famous headmaster of Rugby, Dr. Thomas Arnold.

Arnold's poetical works:

In 1849 Arnold's first volume of poems *The strayed reveller and other poems* appeared under the nom de plume of 'A', as did *Empedocles on Etna* and other poems in 1852. Arnold chose classical themes and gave them a meditative, melancholy look common in modern compositions. He excelled in describing the scenes in and around Oxford as in his nobly pessimistic poems, *The scholar gipsy* and *Rugby chapel*. His meditative poetry like *Dover beach* and *A summer night* resembles that of Gray in its 'subdued melancholy resignation'. All his works are 'careful' and scholarly.

Arnold's prose works:

Arnold's prose works are larger in bulk and wider in range than his poetry. His *Essays in criticism* (1865 and 1888) contains the best of his critical work. Arnold wrote on theological and social themes also but they have no permanent value. The best books of this class are *Culture and Anarchy* (1869) and *Literature and Dogma* (1873).

Matthew Arnold as a classicist:

According to Wimsatt and Brooks, Matthew Arnold provided a valuable counter check to romanticism. Homeric in style and manner. *Balder Dead* is based on Norse mythology. *Merope* is a Greek tragedy. The thought of Empedocles on

Etna is taken from the Greek moralist Epictetus. The strayed reveller is Greek in theme and treatment.

Arnold shares the moral values of ancient Greeks. Like the Greeks, he believes in fate over overpowering man.

Nature in Arnold's poetry:

Nature plays a subdued part in Arnold's poetry. For Arnold, nature is nothing but matter governed by certain laws. Hence, it remains unaffected by man's joy and sorrows. When Sohrab is killed by his own father unknowingly, nature does not grieve. Arnold points out that man can escape from the distressed and decaying human society and rest with nature. The scholar gipsy, waiting for 'the diving spark' avoids contacts even with hard working, innocent rustics.

Being melancholy by temperament Arnold prefers moonlight to sunlight. A large number of his pictures are suffused with moonlight. The merman goes into the city when 'clear falls the moonlight'. The green in „The scholar gipsy“, the sand in Dover Beach and street in A summer night are all moon blanched. Arnold has described birds like the swallow, the rook and the cuckoo. Rivers and oceans form the background of human action in many of Arnold's poems. Arnold is usually described as a poet of soft colours and subdued scenes.

Arnold's poetry as a criticism of life:

Arnold defines poetry as a criticism of life under the conditions fixed by the laws of poetic beauty. In many of his poems, Arnold voices his criticism of life. His elegy The scholar gipsy is a bitter attack on the ills of the Victorian age.

In Dover Beach he pinpoints the decay of religious faith in his age. Once religious faith was strong in England but now it had gone dry, like a sea with its waves ebbing away, leaving behind only the dry rocks of materialism. A vacuum has arisen which only love can fill up.

Matthew Arnold's language and style:

Arnold condemned the English romantics for their lack of design and order. He attacked them as phrase-mongers who delighted in purple patches without caring for the total effect. He repeated time and again that the effect of the whole is more important than the effect of the parts. He admired the grand style of the ancient Greeks especially of Homer.

Some of Arnold's similes have an epic sweep. The one occurring at the end of the scholar gipsy has all the wealth of detail of a Homeric simile. Arnold is also a skilful poet. He does not use regular metres. The varied stanzaic forms, the use of dactylic and trochaic measures and varied verse forms are some of the devices used by the poet to enhance the appeal of his poetry.

4. Write an essay on Charles Dickens' humour and message to society.

Introduction:

Dickens was born on February 7, 1812. He suffered a lot during his boyhood. He worked at a warehouse, labelling and blackening bottles. Learning shorthand, he became a reporter, reporting on men and matters in a vivid manner. The skill that he developed as a reporter stood him in good stead when he had to describe scenes in a moving as well as exciting manner. Dickens started serializing novels in the popular magazines of the time. *Pickwick papers*, a humorous, episodic serial, gained him instantaneous fame. Dickens had an unquenchable passion for acting. This practice brought him not only applause but also much needed money.

The following is a list of the major novels of Dickens:

1. *Pickwick papers* (1837)
2. *Oliver twist* (1839)
3. *Nicholas Nickleby* (1839)
4. *The old Curiosity shop* (1840-41)
5. *David Copperfield* (1850)
6. *Bleak House* (1853)
7. *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859)
8. *Great Expectation* (1860)

Salient Features of Dickens's Novels:

i) Dickens as a Satirist: Dickens is a satirist par excellence. He attacks imperfect laws and social institutions in his novels. Dickens attacks the corruption and the mismanagement that had crept into the government-funded

poor houses. The serious defect in Dickens's satire is that he does not offer any practicable solutions.

ii) Dickens's Pathos: Dickens has written certain most moving novels. The old Curiosity Shop has many poignant scenes and so has Dombey and Son. Dickens is accused of overdoing his pathetic scenes. Because of his lack of self-restraint, Dickens has come to be rated very low.

iii) Dickens created an amazing variety of character. It is said that the characters created by Dickens would form a constituency form which an M.P. could be elected. The majority of Dickens's character is distinguished by their mannerism or oft-repeated words. The characters are flat in the sense that they remain unchanged from beginning to end. The good man is always good and the evil man never undergoes a change for the better. Rarely does Dickens portray inner conflict.

iv) Dickens's humour : Dickens's humour is genial as well as satirical. His comic characters are mostly eccentrics and we laugh at their eccentricities and absurdities. Each of these comic characters has a speech tag attached to him or her. The comic characters who serve as vehicles to satirize the defects in society are as large in number as the amiable comic characters in Dickens.

v) Dickens's Limitations: Dickens as a novelist has certain serious limitations. First, he shows himself incapable of profound love. There is no such passionate woman as Tess in Dickens. Second, Dickens's satire, as has already been pointed out, does not have an intellectual core. He does not offer any intellectual solutions for problems. The most serious limitation of Dickens is that his novels are loose strings of episodes without any organic unity. In his novels, characters appear or disappear without any bearing on or organic relation with the plot of the novel.

Conclusion:

Thus Dickens novels prove him to be an important novelist of the Victorian age.

5. Discuss T.S. Eliot as a writer of poetic Drama.

Introduction:

T. S. Eliot was born on 26th September, 1888. He graduated from Harvard in 1910. T. S Eliot is regarded as one of the major poets of the present century; Eliot's reputation grew to legendary proportions in his own life time. The twentieth century in English literature has come to be known as the Age of T.S. Eliot.

Eliot's career as a poet may be divided into five phases or periods:

1. The First phase (1905-1909): Eliot began writing poems even as a school boy. These poems were mere schoolboy exercises and were published in school magazines.
2. The second phase (1909- 1917): The poems written during this period betray the influence of French writers. The most important poems of this period are i) the Love- Song of J. Alfred Prufrock ii) Portrait of a Lady iii) the preludes iv) Rhapsody on a windy night v) The Boston Evening Transcript and vi) Mr. Apollinax
3. The Third Phase (1918-1925): The poems belonging to this period show the poet's growing distress at the disintegration and corruption of the contemporary society. The Waste land (1922) won Eliot world – wide recognition.
4. The fourth phase (1925-1935): The poems belonging to this period show Eliot's growing faith in Christianity as the only solution to the human dilemma. The important poems of this period are 1) Ash Wednesday 2) Journey of the Magi 3) Animula 4) Marina 5) Choruses from the rock, 6) Coriolanus etc.
5. The Fifth Phase (1935-43) : The four Quartets of this period established Eliot as a religious poet.

Aspects of T.S.Eliot's Poetry:

In the history of English literature, the twentieth century is regarded as the age of T.S. Eliot. Unlike Wordsworth who wrote about peasants and shepherds in villages, T.S. Eliot writes about the people living in thickly populated cities. In his earlier poems, he focuses on the degeneration and lack of cultural roots of the city-bred people.

Religious Revival: The second major theme of T.S. Eliot's poetry is the need for a religious and spiritual awakening. At the end of the waste land the poet

preaches a positive, though vague, moral message. The Hollow Men uses the Christian symbol of the „multifoliate rose“. Ash Wednesday is Eliot's first markedly religious poem.

Eliot's Social Criticism in The Waste Land: The Waste Land has been called a social document. The ills of the society of our time are accurately diagnosed in the poem.

Eliot's poetic Techniques:

1) Use of Myth: T.S. Eliot uses myths to give form to what is apparently formless and to convey vividly the moral degeneration of our time. Eliot uses the myth as a norm or pattern to measure the anarchy, confusion and degeneration of the present. Eliot has used several myths to describe the modern waste land. Of these, the most important are the myth of the medieval waste land of the fisher king. The myth of the waste land of Oedipus, king of Thebes and the myth of the evil land of Emmaus from the Bible. Eliot uses several apt images in the poem for purpose of both comparison and contrast.

Use of Symbols:

Eliot has used several complex symbols in The Waste Land. In The Burial of the Dead the life of the German princess, In What the Thunder said, the barren landscape. And in A Game of Chess symbolizes the sex intrigues and counter-intrigues which have resulted in statement in family life in the modern waste land. In several of his essays T.S. Eliot put forward his views on poetic drama. Eliot is aware of the difficulties in reviving a poetic drama. He said that poetic drama is possible, if certain dramatic conventions are evolved. First, a new form of verse must be evolved. Traditionally, mythological and historical subjects were considered suitable for poetic drama. For his first poetic play Murder in the Cathedral, Eliot had chosen a medieval subject.

For The Cocktail party he took a theme from contemporary life – marital disharmony. Eliot uses a mythical background. Eliot uses images sparingly. Eliot uses poetry in a functional, dramatic manner in the cocktail party.

Conclusion:

According to Eliot Verse and Drama are not separable. Poetry is not a mere external embellishment. Poetry and drama are two aspects of the same creative activity. His poems are thus poetic drama.

Unit V
20th century

Two marks:

1. What is Hopkins's poetry all about ?

Hopkins's is a religious poet of the 20th century. His poems reveal his love of religion, nature and God. He glorifies God and his own soul. His appreciation of nature is deep and heartfelt.

2. What is stream of consciousness novel?

The phrase "stream of consciousness denotes the chaotic flow of impression and sensations through the human consciousness. James Joyce, Dorothy Richardson and Virginia Woolf are the main exponents of the stream of consciousness novel.

3. Comment briefly on Joyce's "Ulysses".

Ulysses is Joyce's masterpiece. In this novel the stream of consciousness technique finds its best exposition. The novel is set in Dublin and it seeks to represent and reconstruct Dublin life in all its sordid realism. It is also called a "comic epic" .

4. Write a note on Katherine Mansfield.

Katherine Mansfield is a writer of short stories. She sought to portray objectively "the significant moment in human relationship, the curious and subtle adventure and the poignant ironies of contrasting human emotions". In her stories she presented the weariness and frustrations of modern English life.

5. Mention a few novels of D.H. Lawrence.

The White Peacock, Sons and Lovers, Women in love, Kangaroo, The boy in the bush, Plumed Serpent and Chatterley's Lover are novels by D.H.Lawrence.

6. Brief on Aldous Huxley.

Aldous Huxley is one of the most subtle and intellectual of modern writers. His works present satirically the disillusionment and frustration with

contemporary life. Huxley is a novelist with a mission and message. Chrome

Yellow, Point counter point, the brave New World and Eyeless in Gaza are some of his important works.

7. In how many parts is „The Waste Land“ divided?

The Waste Land“ is divided into five parts.

8. Who is founder of the „Bloomsbury“ Group?

Virginia Woolf is the founder of the „Bloomsbury Group“.

9. Who introduced „a flat character“ and „a round character“?

E.M.Foster introduced flat and round characters.

10. What is the style of Virginia Woolf’s writings?

Virginia Woolf is a prose writer of high order and her prose sparkles with flashes of poetic beauty and charm. She employs words “with a keen sense of their rhythmic potentialities”. She works as a conscious and meticulous artist and the choice of words shows that she is a cultured woman and a conscious artist.

11. Write a short note on the Features of the twentieth century writing:

The First World War took place and affected England’s economy. It demoralised the English poetry. The Second World War took place and affected the employment of England. Moral values were shaken up.

Paragraph answers

1. Write about the writers and works of important writers of 20th century:

Poetry:

- i. W.B. Yeats is one of the great modern Poets He believed in fairies, magic and superstition. He used symbols in his poems like “Byzantium”, “Sailing to Byzantium” and “The second coming”. He used sea as an image of sensual life.
- ii. T.S. Eliot’s poetic career can be divided into five phases. His famous poems are “The love-song of J. Alfred Prufrock”, “The waste land”, “Ash Wednesday”, “Journey of the Magi” etc.. His “The Four

Quartets" is a religious poem. "Murder in the Cathedral" is his famous Play. Tradition and Individual talents proves him as a critic.

- iii. W.H. Auden, Stephen Spender, Dylan Thomas are other modern Poets.

Prose:

The following are the great prose writers of 20th century.

G.K. Chesterton: "What's wrong with the world?"

Robert Lynd : "The Pleasure of ignorance"
"The Blue lion"
"The Green Man"

A.G. Gardiner : "Pillars of Society"
"Priests and Kings"
"Prophets"

Hillaire Belloc : "History of England"

Drama:

G.B. Shaw was a great dramatist and a social reformer. His plays "Arms and the man", "Saint Joan" and "Man and superman" are social ones. His "Major Barbara" and "Caesar and Cleopatra" prove him to be a Satirist.

T.S. Eliot : "Murder in the Cathedral", "The Cocktail Party".

John Galsworthy: Plays depict the social clashes. His famous works are "Justice", "Strife" "Loyalties" etc..

J.N. Synge (Shadow of the Glen), J.M. Barrie, Samuel Beckett are other dramatists of the age.

Fiction:

The disintegration of society violence sadism and Pessimism are the important themes of 20th century novels.

- Arnold Bennett: "The old wives Tales" is his masterpiece. Having "Life as a friend" is his motto.

- Joseph Conrad : Many of his novels have “Sea”, as the background. As Shakespeare his novels has “Character is destiny”. His famous novel is “Heart of Darkness”.
- E.M. Forster : “A Passage to India”.
- D.H. Lawrence: “Sons and Lovers”
“The Rainbow”
- James Joyce : “Ulysses”.
- Huxley : “Brave New World”

are famous novels. James Joyce introduced “The stream of Conscious technique”.

2. Georgian poets

The Georgian poets formed a distinct group, writing just before, during and immediately after the first World war. Georgian poetry is considered to be intellectually naive and weekly escapist.

John Masefield: “Salt water Ballads”, “The everlasting Mercy”, “The widow in the byestreet”, “The Daffodil Hill”, “End and Beginning”, “Good Friday”, “The trail of Christ” and “The coming of Christ”.

Walter de la Mare: “The listeners and Peacock”, “Bell and Grass”, “The burning glass and other poems”, “The Traveller” and “The Memoirs of a Midget”.

W. H Davies: “The Autobiography of a Super- Tramp”, “A poet’s pilgrimage” and “The soul’s Destroyer and other poems”.

Other Georgian Poets

Edmund Charles Blunden: “The Shepherd”

A E Housman: “A Shropshire Lad”, “The name and nature of poetry”

Ladcelles Abercrombie: “Interludes and Poems”, “Collected poems”, “Thomas Hardy”, “Romanticism and Poetry”, “It’s Music and it’s Meaning”, “The End of the World”, “The Staircase”, “The Deserter”, “Phoenix” and “The Sale of Sir Thomas”.

The Georgian poets rejected the ideas of the decadents and were engaged in a quest for simplicity and beauty. Their main limitation is that were escapists

ignoring the problems of the industrial world around them. This makes their poetry very thin and shallow.

Essays:

1. Write an essay on Thomas Hardy:

Introduction:

Hardy was born in 1840 and died in 1928. Early training as an architect gave him an intimate knowledge of local churches which helped him to detail better in his writings.

Hardy: Poetic genius

A natural poet, much of his poetry is in prose. He had the poet's largeness, minuteness and intensity of vision. Hardy's genius was entirely sculptural. His writings are so in thought that they look like a sculpture from granite stones. It would be difficult for a genius to write poetry which is supposed to be gentle and rhyming but Hardy has a few poems to his credit. Some of Hardy's poems are 'Tess's Lament', 'Weathers', and 'In the time of the breaking of nations'.

Novelist:

Hardy's novels are descriptive and it also tells about human tragedy and the courage the man or woman has to overcome the situation. Well known novels of Hardy are 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles', 'Jude the Obscure', 'The Return of the Native' and 'The Woodlanders'. Usually characters are remembered for long by the readers but in the works of Hardy not only the characters but the places are also remembered.

Hardy's works:

Pastoral Romances: Under the Greenwood Tree, Far From the Madding Crowd, A Pair of Blue Eyes, The Trumpet Major, The Woodlanders.

Pastoral Extravaganza: The Well Beloved

Pastoral Tragedies: The Return of the Native, The Mayor of Casterbridge, Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure

Pastoral Comedies: The Hand of Ethelbert, A Laodicean, Two on a Tower.

Short stories: Wessex Tales, A Group of Noble Dames, Life's Little Ironies, A changed Man and the Romantic Adventures of a milkmaid.

Aspects of Hardy's novels:

Hardy's subjects: Hardy deals with the subject of human beings being buffeted by a malign power. Man is shown to be the plaything of chance. Hardy's view of life was one of pessimism and disillusionment.

His themes: Hardy conveys his pessimistic philosophy through an over-frequent use of chance and coincidence. The charge often levelled against Hardy is that he over-frequently emphasizes the element of chance. Most of the turning-points in his novels are brought about by chance happenings only.

His characters: Hardy's characters mostly belong to the countryside. Clash between the city and the countryside is portrayed in some of his novels. In almost all his novels Hardy introduces a group of minor rustics who are a frequent source of pithy humour and serve as a chorus commenting on the actions of the main characters.

Hardy's treatment of nature: Hardy was born and brought up in the countryside in the midst of beautiful natural scenes. He presents nature in Wessex not merely as a background but as an unfeeling observer of human tragedies and turmoil's. For example Egdon Heath in *The Return of the Native*.

Conclusion:

Thus Hardy is a writer of tragic novels. Rustics, chance and Wessex play an important role in his novels.

2. Discuss the salient features of W. B. Yeats's poetry:

Introduction:

Yeats was born on 13 June, 1865 in Dublin. Yeats's attitude towards the Irish freedom struggle was ambivalent, seeing a "terrible beauty" in it and at the same time blaming the revolutionaries for having become rigid like a 'stone' both the attitudes being reflected in 'Easter 1916'.

Salient features of Yeats poetry:

His Philosophy: Yeats is one of the most difficult of modern poets. He tried to formulate a Philosophical system which could replace the scientific materialism

of his age. Yeats trusted in passion and imagination rather than in scientific reasoning. Yeats saw in man a dual personality, made up of “Self” and “Anti-self” The self is the product of man's social training. The Anti-self is constantly struggling against the self to find freedom in the world of the spirit. Poetry bridges the world of spirit and the world of reality.

Yeats's use of symbols: Often Yeats expresses his Philosophy through carefully devised symbols. Some of the symbols are purely personal and private. Some others are drawn from the works of the French symbolists or the works of Blake and Shelly. Through these symbols he expressed those emotional experiences which were otherwise incommunicable. „Sailing to Byzantium is not about Byzantium. Byzantium is used by Yeats as a symbol of art, of intellectual and spiritual pursuits which flourish in spite of the decay of the body. In old age the body decays but the soul matures. If an old man's soul does not advance, he is merely a scarecrow, a stick wrapped with a tattered coat, that is, a bare skeleton covered with decayed flesh. The poet has rejected mere physical achievements, however 'monumental' and 'magnificent' they may be and set out in search of Byzantium, the city of un- ageing art.

Yeats use of images: Yeats makes use of many apt images in the poem. The sea, fire, water, animal and disease images are used by Yeats. Music is used as an image with different connotations. Art, on the other hand, imaged as a golden bird. Thus Yeats heightens art and degrades sensual life through images also.

Conclusion:

In 1922 Yeats was elected Senator of his Irish Free State. In 1923 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature which brought about public recognition of his work. Towards the end of his life he developed an interest in Indian Philosophy and translated a part of the Upanishads in 1937. He dedicated 'Cuchulain Comforted' a few hours before his death. He died on January 28, 1939.

3. Write an essay on George Bernard Shaw's intellectual dramas.

Introduction:

G. B. Shaw was born in Dublin on 26 July, 1856. As a young boy, Shaw was shy and to hide his shyness developed a rough manner and voice. He got a job as a junior clerk when he was fourteen. Soon he left it and went

to London to become a journalist as a critic of books, music and plays. His duty was to see the various plays staged and write his comments on them.

Works of G.B. Shaw:

The first play *Widower's House*, started in 1885, was completed in 1892. It was satire on the evils of London slums. '*Man and Superman*' was produced in 1905. Other important plays of Shaw are *Saint Joan* (1923), *Pygmalion* (1912) and *Apple Cart* (1929), and his last play, *Back to Methuselah* (1922) was, according to Shaw, the best play though critics would place *Saint Joan* as his masterpiece. Shaw won the Nobel prize for Literature in 1925. He died at a ripe old age of ninety four, revered by the people of all walks of life as a thinker, social reformer and as a great man of letters.

G. B. Shaw as a dramatist:

Shaw was a great dramatist, thinker and humourist. He was a social reformer as he had great concern for the welfare of humanity. He was a realist and rationalist. All these qualities get reflected in his plays. The plays are vehicles of his ideas and ideals and his reformist zeal. Shaw was the founder of the drama of ideas. *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Arms and Man* and *Man and Superman* are some plays of drama of ideas. It is true that Shaw's plays lack passion. There is little emotional or sentimental treatment of life.

Shaw as a satirist:

A satirist aims at correcting society or individuals by pointing out the weaknesses, vices and foibles with wit and humour. Shaw condemns hypocrisy and conventional codes of conduct in social life and the weapon he employs in his attacks is satire. He satirises established institutions like marriage and religion, romantic notions about war and love. He destroys the evils of the existing social order and attempts to rebuild a new world.

Shaw's dramatic techniques:

Shaw always takes pain to construct technically flawless plays. Shaw introduced a new literary genre called discussion drama. This type of drama is marked by lengthy dialogues and clash of ideas. *Saint Joan* and *Back to Methuselah* are dramas of this type. Comic relief is a device used by dramatists to

lighten the tension generated by tragic incidents. Shaw alternates happy and unhappy scenes.

Conclusion:

Thus Shaw uses a variety of techniques to enliven the play and his ensures that his dramas are intellectual.
