History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 21)

Page 102 - Hudibras (Continued)

Q1. How is the remainder of 'Hudibras' structured after the second part?

A. A strictly organized narrative

B. The story lapses and it is composed of odds and ends of epistles, digressions, and satiric tirades

C. It becomes a beautiful romantic tragedy

D. It turns into a scientific manual

Answer: B

Q2. According to modern taste, what is a primary fault of 'Hudibras'?

A. It is much too short

B. It is far too long; some of its best passages suffer from prolixity

C. It is completely devoid of humor

D. It is written in French

Answer: B

Q3. What is a serious disadvantage of 'Hudibras' for the modern reader?

A. Its extreme violence

B. The local and temporary nature of its subject-matter

C. Its lack of any rhyming couplets

D. The fact that the text is lost

Answer: B

Q4. Despite its flaws, what positive qualities does 'Hudibras' possess?

A. It is a masterpiece of epic tragedy

B. It is full of wit and vivacity, with doggerel metre and astonishing double rhymes fitted for burlesque

C. It has the greatest romantic love story

D. It is historically perfectly accurate

Answer: B

Q5. What was Samuel Butler's intention with 'Hudibras'?

A. To convert the nation to Puritanism

B. To kill Puritanism by ridicule

C. To document his own life

D. To teach mathematics

Answer: B

Q6. How did King Charles II react to 'Hudibras'?

A. He banned it immediately

B. It delighted him and became his favorite reading, though he still let Butler live his last years in poverty

C. He executed Butler for treason

D. He made Butler the Prime Minister

Answer: B

Q7. Is Butler's picture of Puritanism considered complete and final by historians?

A. Yes, it is a perfect historical record

B. No, it is a mere caricature that ignores their greatness and strength

C. Yes, the Puritans agreed with it

D. No, because he only wrote about Catholics

Answer: B

Q8. According to the footnote, what does the epithet 'heroic' denote in 'heroic couplet'?

A. That the poem is about a soldier

B. That each line is iambic pentameter (five accents / ten syllables)

C. That it must rhyme AABBCC

D. That it can only be written by men

Answer: B

Q9. Which of the following is an example of an iambic pentameter line provided in the footnote?

A. 'Mary had a little lamb'

B. 'To err is human, to forgive divine'

C. 'Once upon a midnight dreary'

D. 'I wandered lonely as a cloud'

Answer: B

Q10. What is the 'Gondibert' stanza (mentioned in a footnote)?

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A. A five-line limerick

B. A four-line iambic pentameter stanza, rhyming abab (like Gray's Elegy)

C. A Japanese Haiku

D. A fourteen-line sonnet

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 21)

Page 103 - The Rise of Modern Prose

Q1. According to Matthew Arnold, what does the Restoration mark the real moment of birth for?

A. Modern English poetry

B. Our modern English prose

C. The English novel

D. Shakespearean drama

Answer: B

Q2. From the historical point of view, what is the greatest single fact in the literary annals of the Age of Dryden?

A. The death of Milton

B. The establishment of this modern prose

C. The banning of theaters

D. The invention of the printing press

Answer: B

Q3. How does modern English prose break with the style of the times preceding it (like Milton's prose)?

A. It becomes much longer and more involved

B. Its organism is opposed to length and involvement, enabling us to be clear, plain, and short

C. It uses more Latin syntax

D. It removes all punctuation

Answer: B

Q4. When reading a page out of Milton's Areopagitica compared to Dryden or Defoe, what is instinctively thought about Milton's style?

A. 'This is exactly how we write today'

B. 'We should never for a moment think of trying to write like that'

C. 'This is far too simple and childish'

D. 'This is the perfect journalistic style'

Answer: B

Q5. How is the older prose of men like Hooker, Milton, and Clarendon described?

A. Clear, short, and conversational

B. Too intricate, involved, and cumbrous for general use

C. Consisting entirely of short, one-word sentences

D. Very modern and journalistic

Answer: B

Q6. What was a common structural feature of the older prose that the new prose cleared away?

A. Only using rhyming couplets

B. Long sentences, numerous parentheses, and constructions like Latin syntax (inversions)

C. A complete lack of verbs

D. Using only the present tense

Answer: B

Q7. What was the result of clearing away the large straggling masses and classical inversions in the new prose?

A. It made writing completely impossible

B. It made for ease in writing and reading, and for directness and lucidity

C. It caused the English language to die out

D. It made reading incredibly boring

Answer: B

Q8. What was one of the causes that combined to introduce this new prose?

A. A law passed by the King banning long sentences

B. The spread of the spirit of common sense and the critical temper of mind

C. The invention of the dictionary

D. A massive decline in literacy

Answer: B

Q9. What influence did science have on the development of the new prose?

A. It demanded that all prose be written in mathematical formulas

B. The extending influence of science favored clearness of thought and plainness of expression

C. It completely ignored literature

D. It demanded a return to ancient Latin

Answer: B

Q10. In spite of superficial differences, what did English prose become after the Restoration?

A. A dead language

B. The style of our own day

C. Unintelligible to the common man

D. A strictly poetic form

Answer: B

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Page 104 - Influences on Modern Prose and Dryden's Role

Q1. How did the changing nature of the reading public influence the new prose?

A. The public wanted harder, more pedantic books

B. A new, more miscellaneous/varied public was growing up whose tastes and capacities had to be consulted

C. The public completely stopped reading

D. The public only wanted to read Latin

Answer: B

Q2. In an age of unceasing political and religious excitement, what sort of evanescent literature saw an immense development?

A. Epic poetry

B. Journalism

C. Fairy tales

D. Travel diaries

Answer: B

Q3. Because the general reader and the ready writer appeared together, what happened to subjects that were formerly treated in a dry, pedantic way?

A. They were banned

B. They had to be made simple and pleasant

C. They were only written in Greek

D. They were only discussed in secret

Answer: B

Q4. Which European country's literature provided the exact model English writers needed for clear, flexible prose?

A. Italy

B. Spain

C. France

D. Germany

Answer: C

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Q5. Was the establishment of the new prose sudden and the work of one man?

A. Yes, Dryden invented it overnight

B. No, it was not quite sudden, nor the work of any one man

C. Yes, the King mandated it on a specific day

D. Yes, Matthew Arnold invented it

Answer: B

Q6. Who has a special claim on our attention as the first of our really great prose writers in the modern style?

A. John Milton

B. John Dryden

C. Edmund Waller

D. Jeremy Taylor

Answer: B

Q7. Apart from hack-work, what do Dryden's prose writings mainly consist of?

A. Romantic novels

B. Essays and prefaces dealing with questions connected with poetry and the drama

C. Historical chronicles of England

D. Scientific observations

Answer: B

Q8. Just as the Restoration saw the rise of new prose, it also saw the real beginnings of what in England?

A. Modern criticism (systematic study of the principles/laws of literature)

B. The Romantic movement

C. Printing presses

D. Medieval allegory

Answer: A

Q9. What does the growth of criticism and the tendency to check production by line and rule illustrate about the age?

A. That imagination was stronger than analysis

B. That it was far stronger on the side of analysis than imagination (intellect predominated over creative powers)

C. That people did not care about rules

D. That everyone wrote purely from emotion

Answer: B

Q10. Besides being our first great modern prose writer, what else is Dryden considered?

A. Our first great romantic novelist

B. Our first great modern critic

C. Our first great King

D. Our first great actor

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 21)

Page 105 - Dryden's Criticism

Q1. Dryden's critical work is of capital importance as a commentary upon the tastes and ideals of what rising school of literature?

A. The Romantic School

B. The Classical School

C. The Metaphysical School

D. The Gothic School

Answer: B

Q2. Where is Dryden's best criticism generally found?

A. In his political pamphlets

B. In his writings on the drama

C. In his religious sermons

D. In his travel diaries

Answer: B

Q3. What is the title of the earliest and most masterly of all of Dryden's critical writings?

A. Religio Laici

B. Essay of Dramatic Poesy

C. Areopagitica

D. The Hind and the Panther

Answer: B

Q4. Which of the following is NOT one of the three chief types of drama considered in the 'Essay of Dramatic Poesy'?

A. The classical drama of the Greeks and Romans

B. The neo-classical drama of the French

C. The romantic drama of the English

D. The miracle plays of the Middle Ages

Answer: D

Q5. What dramatic technique does Dryden undertake to justify the use of in his 'Essay of Dramatic Poesy'?

A. Only using female actors

B. The use of rhyme in place of blank verse on the stage

C. Removing all dialogue

D. Using real weapons on stage

Answer: B

Q6. From whose censure does Dryden attempt to 'vindicate the honour of our English writers'?

A. The Puritans

B. Those who unjustly prefer the French before them

C. The Spanish

D. The King

Answer: B

Q7. Why does a good deal of Dryden's criticism have but slight permanent value today?

A. Because he wrote it all in Latin

B. Because he often wrote hastily, was careless in detail, and accepted the limitations/prejudices of his age

C. Because all the copies were burned

D. Because it was proven scientifically false

Answer: B

Q8. Despite his carelessness, what are we seldom fail to be struck by when reading Dryden's criticism?

A. His deep religious fervor

B. The sound good sense, sagacity, and penetration he brings to bear upon almost every subject

C. His extreme hatred of all poetry

D. His absolute perfection in every detail

Answer: B

Q9. How is Dryden's prose style characterized?

A. Heavy, cumbrous, and Latinised

B. Clearness, vigour, felicity of phrasing, and a colloquial ease with literary distinction

C. Filled with completely incomprehensible metaphors

D. Written entirely in rhyming couplets

Answer: B

Q10. Did Dryden's colloquial ease cause his prose to descend to the level of the slipshod or commonplace?

A. Yes, it was often very trashy

B. No, it rarely descended to that level; it preserved a literary distinction

C. Yes, he wrote like the uneducated masses

D. It is impossible to tell

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 21)

Page 106 - John Bunyan (Part 1)

Q1. Who is the only other really great name in the prose literature of Dryden's age?

A. Thomas Hobbes

B. John Bunyan

C. Richard Baxter

D. Izaak Walton

Answer: B

Q2. What trade did John Bunyan follow (the same as his father)?

A. Blacksmith

B. Tinker

C. Weaver

D. Carpenter

Answer: B

Q3. Why was Bunyan committed to Bedford jail for twelve years?

A. For stealing from the church

B. For preaching (convicted as a 'common upholder of several unlawful meetings and conventicles')

C. For writing a novel

D. For treason against the King

Answer: B

Q4. Which of Bunyan's works is an autobiographical account written during his twelve-year captivity?

A. The Pilgrim's Progress

B. Grace Abounding

C. The Holy War

D. The Life and Death of Mr. Badman

Answer: B

Q5. During what event was the first part of 'The Pilgrim's Progress' (1678) written?

A. During his time as a soldier in the civil war

B. During a second imprisonment of six months in 1675

C. While he was dying

D. While he was visiting France

Answer: B

Q6. Which of the following is NOT one of Bunyan's four great works?

A. Grace Abounding

B. The Pilgrim's Progress

C. Areopagitica

D. The Holy War

Answer: C

Q7. What gave Bunyan a place almost by himself in an unimaginative age?

A. His vast wealth

B. His wonderful imagination

C. His political power

D. His scientific discoveries

Answer: B

Q8. Bunyan is the only man in our literature who has ever succeeded in doing what?

A. Writing a successful romantic comedy

B. Writing a long prose allegory and filling it with the absorbing interest of a real human story

C. Writing an epic poem without rhyming

D. Earning a million dollars from a book

Answer: B

Q9. What was Bunyan's educational background?

A. He was the most educated man of his time

B. He was not an educated man (knew nothing of classics or theories of literature)

C. He graduated top of his class at Oxford

D. He was educated in Paris

Answer: B

Q10. Though uneducated, what did Bunyan have by heart, which gave him a genius for style?

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A. The works of Shakespeare

B. The Authorised Version of the English Bible

C. The Iliad and the Odyssey

D. Foxe's Book of Martyrs

Answer: B