History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Page 112 - Table of Events (Part 4)

Q1. According to the table, when did John Vanbrugh begin to write for the stage?

A. 1660

B. 1678

C. 1697

D. 1700

Answer: C

Q2. In what year did Jeremy Collier publish his 'Short View of the Profaneness and Immorality of the English Stage'?

A. 1660

B. 1688

C. 1698

D. 1700

Answer: C

Q3. What work did John Dryden publish in 1699, shortly before his death?

A. Absalom and Achitophel

B. Fables

C. Religio Laici

D. The Hind and the Panther

Answer: B

Q4. When did George Farquhar begin to write for the stage?

A. 1660

B. 1688

C. 1693

D. 1699

Answer: D

Q5. In what year did John Dryden die, marking the end of his era?

A. 1688

B. 1698

C. 1699

D. 1700

Answer: D

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Page 113 - The Age of Pope (Moral Regeneration)

Q1. What period of time does 'The Age of Pope' cover?

A. 1625-1660

B. 1660-1700

C. 1700-1745

D. 1745-1798

Answer: C

Q2. Despite coarse manners and corrupt politics, what did the early 18th century witness a resolute attempt toward?

A. Total anarchy

B. Moral regeneration

C. A return to strict Puritanism

D. A return to Catholicism

Answer: B

Q3. What did the reception of Collier's 'Short View' clearly prove about the people of this era?

A. They hated all theater

B. They were fast growing sick of the outrageous license of the Restoration and wanted a return to elementary decencies

C. They wanted more explicit comedies

D. They did not know how to read

Answer: B

Q4. Which class of writers was most strongly influenced by moral considerations and the desire for improvement?

A. The aristocratic writers

B. The middle-class writers

C. The peasant writers

D. The royal writers

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Q5. While revolting against Restoration profligacy, what were the men of Pope's era still hostile to?

A. The monarchy

B. Everything that savoured of Puritan fanaticism and religious zeal

C. The use of logic and reason

D. The French language

Answer: B

Q6. Because they were hostile to Puritan zeal, what did England fail to recover even as it regained moral ground?

A. The wealth of the nation

B. The high passion or spiritual fervour of the Elizabethan age

C. The ability to write poetry

D. Its political stability

Answer: B

Q7. What mood did the men of Pope's era fall into due to their dread of emotional excesses?

A. Absolute hysteria

B. A mood of chilly apathy

C. Deep, passionate romanticism

D. Violent revolutionary zeal

Answer: B

Q8. How did they view emotional excesses compared to the moral excesses of the roysterers?

A. They viewed them as holy and pure

B. They viewed them as almost as monstrous

C. They thought they were the only way to write poetry

D. They completely ignored them

Answer: B

Q9. What was the focus of the literature that emanated from the middle-class writers of this half-century?

A. Chivalric romance

B. The desire for improvement and moral considerations

C. Epic tragedies

D. Purely comedic farces

Answer: B

Q10. How did the general tone of society remain during the early 18th century, despite the attempt at moral regeneration?

A. Perfectly polite and refined

B. Brutal, with coarse manners and scandalously corrupt politics

C. Deeply religious and ascetic

D. Completely lawless and without any rules

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Page 114 - Rationalism in the Age of Pope

Q1. During the Age of Pope, any manifestation of earnestness, even in the pulpit, was regarded as dangerously suggestive of what?

A. Pure holiness

B. 'Enthusiasm', which was in shockingly bad taste

C. Divine inspiration

D. Supreme intellect

Answer: B

Q2. What became the 'idol of the time'?

A. Deep emotional passion

B. Good sense (love of the reasonable/useful, hatred of extravagant/mystical/visionary)

C. The King

D. Classical mythology

Answer: B

Q3. What were the prevailing principles in the field of religion during this era?

A. Mysticism and fanaticism

B. Rationalism and utility

C. Superstition and fear

D. Romance and emotion

Answer: B

Q4. In the great Deistic controversy, what did the Deists advocate for?

A. A return to the Pope

B. A purely natural religion (attacking revelation and the miraculous)

C. The banning of all religion

D. Worshipping the Greek gods

Answer: B

Q5. What was common to both the Deists and the orthodox defenders of Christianity?

A. They both believed in fairies

B. The assumption of the supremacy of logic and reason (both were rationalistic in spirit)

C. They both hated the Bible

D. They both wanted to destroy the church

Answer: B

Q6. How did the greatest preachers of this era seek to reach their listeners?

A. By stirring the sluggish conscience through feelings

B. By appealing to reason and good sense to convince the intellect

C. By threatening them with hellfire

D. By singing emotional hymns

Answer: B

Q7. How was religion generally conceived during this time?

A. As a deeply personal, mystical experience for the soul

B. More as something necessary to the well-being of society, like an effective system of police

C. As a useless superstition that should be outlawed

D. As purely a matter for artists and poets

Answer: B

Q8. How does the text describe the literature of the age, reflecting the same rationalistic temper?

A. A literature of emotion, passion, and creative energy

B. A literature of intelligence, wit, and fancy (exhibiting coldness and want of feeling)

C. A literature of deep spiritual fervour

D. A literature completely devoid of any rules

Answer: B

Q9. What were simplicity and spontaneity sacrificed for in the poetry of this era?

A. Emotional depth

B. The dominant mania for elegance and correctness

C. Political revolution

D. Religious zeal

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Q10. What were the limits of poetry during this age?

A. It explored the vast wilderness of nature

B. It seldom travelled beyond the interests of the narrow world of the 'Town' (coffee-houses, drawing-rooms)

C. It focused entirely on heaven and hell

D. It was only written by farmers

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Page 115 - The Classic/Augustan Age

Q1. What two alternative names are sometimes given to the Age of Pope?

A. The Romantic Age and the Gothic Age

B. The Classic Age and the Augustan Age

C. The Elizabethan Age and the Jacobean Age

D. The Dark Ages and the Middle Ages

Answer: B

Q2. What does the epithet 'classic' denote regarding the models and standards of this age?

A. That they copied the ancient Greeks exclusively

B. That the poets/critics believed the works of classical antiquity (really Latin writers) presented the best models and ultimate standards

C. That they believed no rules should exist

D. That they only read English literature

Answer: B

Q3. In a more general way, what does 'classic' denote regarding their faith in genius?

A. They believed individual genius should be completely free

B. They had little faith in individual genius, and much in laws and rules imposed by the authority of the past

C. They believed only the King possessed genius

D. They believed genius came directly from God through visions

Answer: B

Q4. How did Walsh concisely express the principle of classicism to Pope in 1706?

A. 'The best poets break all the rules'

B. 'The best of the modern poets in all languages are those that have nearest copied the ancients'

C. 'Poetry must be purely emotional'

D. 'Ignore the past and forge your own path'

Answer: B

Q5. In his 'Essay on Criticism', Pope wrote: 'Those Rules of old discover'd, not devis'd, / Are Nature still, but Nature _____.'

A. destroyed

B. methodiz'd

C. romanticiz'd

D. ignored

Answer: B

Q6. According to Pope, to copy Nature is to copy what?

A. The stars and trees

B. The ancient rules

C. Your own heart

D. The King's decrees

Answer: B

Q7. Why was the epithet 'Augustan' originally applied to this age as a term of high praise?

A. Because Pope was named Augustus

B. Because they believed the Age of Pope was the golden age of English literature, just as the Age of Augustus was the golden age of Latin literature

C. Because they wrote exclusively in August

D. Because they wanted to conquer Rome

Answer: B

Q8. How does the text suggest we still use the term 'Augustan' today, even if we no longer view it as a 'golden age'?

A. We shouldn't use it at all

B. As a convenient catchword to bring out the analogy between this English literature and the Latin literature of Virgil and Horace

C. To mean 'highly romantic'

D. To mean 'written by peasants'

Answer: B

Q9. In both the English Augustan age and the Latin Augustan age, upon whom were men of letters largely dependent?

A. The public voting system

B. Powerful patrons

C. The Catholic Church

D. Their own inherited wealth

Answer: B

Q10. The literature produced by this thoroughly artificial society was a literature of what?

A. Free creative effort and inspiration

B. Self-conscious and deliberate art

C. Deep religious mysticism

D. Unrestrained emotional outbursts

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Page 116 - Characteristics of the Classical School

Q1. Which of the following is NOT a salient feature of classical poetry as outlined in the text?

A. It is commonly didactic and satiric (argument, criticism, politics)

B. It is marked by a deep love of nature, landscape, and country things

C. It is the product of intelligence playing upon the surface of life

D. It is markedly deficient on the side of emotion and imagination

Answer: B

Q2. What kind of 'world' is classical poetry almost exclusively made out of?

A. The rural farm world

B. A 'town' poetry, made out of the interests of 'society' in the great centres of culture

C. The world of fantasy and magic

D. The world of the ancient Greeks

Answer: B

Q3. Classical poetry is almost entirely wanting in all those elements which we sum up under what epithet?

A. 'Satiric'

B. 'Romantic'

C. 'Didactic'

D. 'Intellectual'

Answer: B

Q4. A hatred of the 'romantic' in literature was the logical accompaniment of a hatred of what in religion?

A. Catholicism

B. 'Enthusiasm'

C. Reason

D. Utility

Answer: B

Q5. How did the critical taste of the time view the 'ruder' masters of our older literature (like Chaucer, Spenser, and even Shakespeare)?

A. They worshipped them

B. They were distinctly unsympathetic towards them

C. They translated them into Latin

D. They completely ignored them

Answer: B

Q6. The critical taste of this era was especially hostile to everything that belonged to which historical period?

A. The Renaissance

B. The Middle Ages (with their chivalrous extravagance, visionary idealism, strong religious faith)

C. Ancient Rome

D. The Victorian Era

Answer: B

Q7. Extreme devotion to form and a love of superficial polish led to the establishment of what?

A. A highly romantic and emotional style

B. A highly artificial and conventional style (stereotyped into regular traditional poetic diction)

C. A complete abandonment of poetry

D. Free verse poetry

Answer: B

Q8. What happened to classical embroidery during this time?

A. It was never used

B. It was employed in season and out of season till it was worn threadbare and made ridiculous by constant use

C. It was only used by female poets

D. It was banned by the King

Answer: B

Q9. What disappeared before the growth of a false conception of poetic style?

A. Intelligence

B. Simplicity and naturalness

C. Rhyme and meter

D. Political satire

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 23)

Q10. What did romanticism and enthusiasm cut across according to the accepted notions of the Age of Pope?

A. Their notions of deep religious faith

B. All their accepted notions of reasonableness and good sense

C. Their love of nature

D. Their appreciation of Shakespeare

Answer: B