History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Page 207 - Cobbett, Landor, Southey, Coleridge

Q1. Which book is considered William Cobbett's most characteristic and of most permanent interest?
A. Imaginary Conversations
B. Rural Rides
C. English Grammar
D. The Pentameron
Answer: B

Q2. Why is Cobbett's 'English Grammar' considered unique among grammars?
A. It is written entirely in verse
B. It is thoroughly entertaining
C. It includes no rules
D. It is written in broad Scotch
Answer: B

Q3. Who is presented as an antithesis to Cobbett in almost every conceivable particular?
A. Walter Savage Landor
B. Robert Southey
C. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
D. Thomas De Quincey
Answer: A

Q4. Landor is unsurpassed in which style of prose writing?
A. Vernacular and colloquial
B. Severe, sententious, sculpturesque
C. Passionate and rhetorical
D. Easy-going and irresponsible
Answer: B

Q5. What is the title of Landor's principal prose work consisting of dialogues between great characters of the past?
A. Rural Rides
B. Biographia Literaria
C. Imaginary Conversations
D. Peter Plymley's Letters
Answer: C

Q6. Which of the following works is a tale of the golden age of Athens told in letters by Landor?
A. The Citation of William Shakespeare
B. The Pentameron
C. Pericles and Aspasia
D. Life of Nelson
Answer: C

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Q7. The 'Pentameron' is a series of dialogues between which two historical figures?
A. Pericles and Aspasia
B. Petrarch and Boccaccio
C. Dante and Beatrice
D. Shakespeare and Jonson
Answer: B

Q8. What is Robert Southey's prose masterpiece?
A. Life of Scott
B. Life of Nelson
C. Rural Rides
D. Biographia Literaria
Answer: B

Q9. Which prose work by Coleridge is rambling and unequal but contains profound analytical and interpretative power?
A. Imaginary Conversations
B. Rural Rides
C. Biographia Literaria
D. Table Talk
Answer: C

Q10. What effect did Coleridge's criticism have?
A. It established the classical principle in literature
B. It exercised a profound influence in the establishment of the romantic principle
C. It destroyed the romantic movement
D. It revived medieval drama
Answer: B

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Page 208 - The Age of Wordsworth: Historians and Philosophers

Q1. The text notes that this chapter could be extended considerably by the inclusion of writers in which fields?
A. Science and mathematics
B. History and philosophy
C. Astronomy and geography
D. Law and medicine
Answer: B

Q2. During the period discussed, many writers did excellent work in history and philosophy. How does the author choose to handle them?
A. By providing a detailed catalogue of their names
B. By analyzing their major works in depth
C. By excluding them from discussion here
D. By devoting a separate chapter to them
Answer: C

Q3. What reason does the author give for not discussing the historical and philosophical writers?
A. Their works are lost
B. This is not the place to discuss the value of their contributions to their special subjects
C. They are not considered part of English literature
D. Their works were written in Latin
Answer: B

Q4. How does the author view a 'mere catalogue of their names and writings'?
A. As highly beneficial to students
B. As a necessary evil
C. As serving no useful purpose
D. As the best way to summarize the era
Answer: C

Q5. The omission of historians and philosophers indicates the book's primary focus is on:
A. General literature (poetry, fiction, essays, criticism)
B. Political theory
C. Hard sciences
D. Theological debates
Answer: A

Q6. The decision not to list the philosophers and historians is a matter of:
A. Ignorance
B. Space constraints and narrative focus
C. Censorship
D. Academic disagreement
Answer: B

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Q7. While the romantic era produced great poetry and essays, it is implied that it also produced substantial work in:
A. Greek drama
B. History and philosophy
C. Modern physics
D. Classical sculpture
Answer: B

Q8. The phrase 'contributions to the literature of their special subjects' suggests that:
A. Their writing is only technical
B. They are important in their fields but may not belong in a general literary history
C. They were bad writers
D. They were mostly novelists in disguise
Answer: B

Q9. The author skips these writers to maintain the flow of the book towards which upcoming topic in the next chapter?
A. The Augustan Age
B. The Novel in the Age of Wordsworth
C. The Victorian Drama
D. The Renaissance
Answer: B

Q10. By omitting a 'mere catalogue', the author emphasizes that this outline history is:
A. A complete encyclopedia
B. An interpretative overview rather than a dry list of facts
C. A political manifesto
D. A scientific text
Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Page 209 - The Age of Wordsworth: The Novel and Scott

Q1. Chapter 21 focuses on which literary form during the Age of Wordsworth?
A. The Epic Poem
B. The Essay
C. The Novel
D. The Drama
Answer: C

Q2. For how long did Sir Walter Scott enjoy great success as a writer of romances in verse before turning to prose fiction?
A. Five years
B. Ten years
C. Fifteen years
D. Twenty years
Answer: B

Q3. Which of the following is given as a reason for Scott turning from verse to prose romance?
A. He lost his ability to write rhyming verse
B. The original vein he had opened up was getting exhausted
C. The government banned verse romances
D. He wanted to write history books instead
Answer: B

Q4. Whose sudden rise threatened the supremacy Scott had long enjoyed in poetry?
A. Keats
B. Shelley
C. Wordsworth
D. Byron
Answer: D

Q5. With which work in 1814 did Scott strike out definitely into a new line of prose fiction?
A. Rokeby
B. Waverley
C. The Lay of the Last Minstrel
D. The Lady of the Lake
Answer: B

Q6. Which of Scott's later narrative poems is described as 'to all intents and purposes a novel in verse'?
A. The Lay of the Last Minstrel
B. Marmion
C. Rokeby
D. The Lord of the Isles
Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Q7. In 'Rokeby', what did Scott perceive about the focus of the interest for the first time?
A. It centered on character rather than incident
B. It centered entirely on incident
C. It was purely historical facts
D. It was based on supernatural elements
Answer: A

Q8. How did verse function for Scott's powers when writing 'Rokeby'?
A. As a perfect medium
B. As an aid
C. As a hindrance
D. As an inspiration
Answer: C

Q9. Before writing Waverley, Scott had entertained the ambitious desire of composing a tale of chivalry in the style of which book?
A. The Castle of Otranto
B. Robinson Crusoe
C. Pamela
D. Tom Jones
Answer: A

Q10. Scott's 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel' was an elaboration of what old form?
A. The sonnet
B. The ballad form
C. The epic
D. The ode
Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Page 210 - Scott's Transition to Prose

Q1. The reception accorded to which poem convinced Scott that there was a large English reading public interested in the Highlands?
A. The Lay of the Last Minstrel
B. Rokeby
C. The Lady of the Lake
D. Marmion
Answer: C

Q2. Whose 'Irish Tales' gave Scott a fresh stimulus to write a prose romance?
A. Jane Austen's
B. Fanny Burney's
C. Maria Edgeworth's
D. Mary Shelley's
Answer: C

Q3. What particularly struck Scott about Maria Edgeworth's Irish Tales?
A. Their supernatural elements
B. Their detailed pictures of the characters and manners of the Irish people
C. Their strict classical structure
D. Their deep philosophical digressions
Answer: B

Q4. What did Scott aim to do for Scotland inspired by Maria Edgeworth?
A. Write epic poetry about its ancient kings
B. What Miss Edgeworth had done for Ireland
C. Write a comprehensive political history
D. Create a dictionary of the Scottish dialect
Answer: B

Q5. How did Scott accidentally rediscover the draft of the first chapters of Waverley?
A. While moving houses
B. While hunting in a drawer for some fishing tackle
C. A friend found it and sent it to him
D. He found it in an old book of poetry
Answer: B

Q6. How long did it take Scott to complete Waverley after finding the draft?
A. Three weeks
B. Three months
C. A year
D. Three days
Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Q7. Scott's work in fiction represents the amalgamation of the 18th century historical romance and what else?
A. The 18th century essay
B. The 18th century novel of manners
C. The 17th century epic
D. The Gothic horror story
Answer: B

Q8. What unique combination of interests did Waverley bring together for the first time?
A. Romance and realism
B. Philosophy and science
C. Politics and economics
D. Poetry and drama
Answer: A

Q9. What did Scott do for the story of manners for the first time?
A. Set it in a futuristic framework
B. Set it in an historical framework
C. Wrote it entirely in dialect
D. Combined it with fairy tales
Answer: B

Q10. Scott's transition to the novel merged his romantic inspiration of the past with his intimate knowledge of:
A. Actual Scottish life
B. Ancient Greek mythology
C. Contemporary London society
D. French revolutionary politics
Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

Page 211 - Characteristics of Scott's Novels

Q1. How many novels and tales make up the Waverley Novels?
A. Twenty-seven novels and five tales
B. Twenty novels and ten tales
C. Thirty novels and two tales
D. Fifteen novels and fifteen tales
Answer: A

Q2. The Waverley Novels were the result of how many years of extraordinary creative activity?
A. Ten years
B. Eighteen years
C. Twenty-five years
D. Thirty years
Answer: B

Q3. Which century does 'Count Robert of Paris' cover?
A. Eleventh century
B. Twelfth century
C. Fourteenth century
D. Fifteenth century
Answer: A

Q4. 'Ivanhoe' and 'The Talisman' are set in which century?
A. Eleventh century
B. Twelfth century
C. Fourteenth century
D. Fifteenth century
Answer: B

Q5. In which setting is Scott always at his best?
A. Medieval England
B. The Scotland of the 17th and 18th centuries
C. 15th century France
D. 11th century Byzantium
Answer: B

Q6. What is Scott's regular practice in his historical novels regarding the hero?
A. The hero is always a famous historical king
B. The hero is a private individual whose fortunes become involved in great public movements
C. The hero is a mythological figure
D. The hero never interacts with real historical events
Answer: B

Q7. In 'Waverley', the hero Edward Waverley gets entangled in which historical event?

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 42)

A. The Wars of the Roses
B. The Jacobite rising of 1745
C. The French Revolution
D. The English Civil War
Answer: B

Q8. What famous historical figure does Edward Waverley meet in the novel?
A. Queen Elizabeth I
B. The Young Pretender
C. Oliver Cromwell
D. Richard the Lionheart
Answer: B

Q9. Who noted that Scott's novels taught all men that bygone ages were filled by living men, not by abstractions?
A. Jeffrey
B. Hazlitt
C. Carlyle
D. Macaulay
Answer: C

Q10. Is Scott's treatment of history entirely accurate in his novels?
A. Yes, he never deviates from historical facts
B. No, he often takes great liberties with facts
C. Yes, they are used as primary historical textbooks
D. He only writes about fictional countries
Answer: B