History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 46)

Page 227 - E.B. Browning and Rossetti

Q1. Which long poem in blank verse by Elizabeth Barrett Browning might really be classed as a novel, save for its form?
A. The Cry of the Children
B. Casa Guidi Windows
C. Aurora Leigh
D. Sonnets from the Portuguese
Answer: C

Q2. Unlike Matthew Arnold, Mrs. Browning believed that it should be one chief aim of the poet to:
A. Imitate Greek tragedies
B. Meet the age face to face
C. Escape completely into the past
D. Write only in Latin
Answer: B

Q3. In which series of sonnets did Mrs. Browning enshrine her love, creating a masterpiece of love-poetry?
A. The House of Life
B. Sonnets from the Portuguese
C. Modern Love
D. Astrophil and Stella
Answer: B

Q4. Dante Gabriel Rossetti is the leading figure in which artistic movement?
A. Pre-Raphaelitism
B. Imagism
C. The Spasmodic School
D. The Lake School
Answer: A

Q5. How is Dante Gabriel Rossetti described in relation to his time, using Mr. Hall Caine's language?
A. A progressive visionary
B. An anachronism in these days
C. A scientific rationalist
D. The voice of Victorian industry
Answer: B

Q6. The real home of Rossetti's imagination was not 19th-century London, but:
A. Ancient Rome
B. The Florence of Dante's era
C. Medieval Paris
D. The Scottish Highlands
Answer: B

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Q7. Despite the deeply Catholic atmosphere of his poetry, what were Rossetti's actual intellectual convictions?

A. He was a devout Catholic

B. He was an evangelical Protestant

C. He was an agnostic

D. He was a staunch Puritan

Answer: C

Q8. In which poetic form did Rossetti excel when dealing with situations of tragic intensity?

A. The dramatic monologue

B. The blank verse epic

C. The ballad

D. The mock-heroic

Answer: C

Q9. Which of the following is a poem by Dante Gabriel Rossetti?

A. The Blessed Damozel

B. Aurora Leigh

C. Casa Guidi Windows

D. Sordello

Answer: A

Q10. How is Rossetti's poetry as a whole characterized in terms of its tone?

A. Highly moral and religiously orthodox

B. Racy and full-blooded

C. Not very wholesome, with a rare and exotic beauty suggestive of decadence

D. Completely plain and unadorned

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 46)

Page 228 - Christina Rossetti, Morris, and Swinburne

Q1. Who is the only other woman-poet in this literature who can fairly be placed beside Mrs. Browning?
A. Emily Bronte
B. Christina Georgina Rossetti
C. George Eliot
D. Felicia Hemans
Answer: B

Q2. Christina Rossetti's work is characterized by:
A. Satirical humor and political commentary
B. Deep religious feeling, a pronounced strain of mysticism, and much metrical charm
C. Cold classicism and objective epic forms
D. Detailed descriptions of industrial life
Answer: B

Q3. Through which poet is the main line of Rossetti's influence and romanticism traced?
A. Algernon Charles Swinburne
B. Matthew Arnold
C. William Morris
D. James Thomson
Answer: C

Q4. Which of the following is an early work by William Morris?
A. The Earthly Paradise
B. Atalanta in Calydon
C. The White Ship
D. Sister Helen
Answer: A

Q5. Under the influence of Ruskin and a revulsion from modern commercialism, what political ideology did William Morris adopt?
A. Conservatism
B. Socialism
C. Anarchism
D. Imperialism
Answer: B

Q6. How did Morris once describe himself early in his career?
A. A scorpion
B. The idle singer of an empty day
C. The poetic exponent of liberalism
D. A wandering minstrel
Answer: B

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Q7. Which poet was the last to die of the great race of Victorian poets?
A. Robert Browning
B. Lord Tennyson
C. Algernon Charles Swinburne
D. William Morris
Answer: C

Q8. Swinburne's 'Atalanta in Calydon' and 'Erechtheus' rank among the finest attempts to revive which form?
A. The medieval mystery play
B. The English sonnet sequence
C. The pure classic form of Greek tragedy
D. The Italian epic
Answer: C

Q9. Swinburne wrote an English dramatic trilogy about which historical figure?
A. Mary Stuart
B. Queen Elizabeth
C. Joan of Arc
D. Cleopatra
Answer: A

Q10. The revolutionary fervor of Swinburne's political poems is strongly suggestive of which of his chief masters?
A. Percy Bysshe Shelley
B. Lord Byron
C. Victor Hugo
D. Charles Baudelaire
Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 46)

Page 229 - Swinburne and Minor Poets

Q1. It is primarily as what type of poet that Swinburne will hold his place in our literature?
A. An epic poet
B. A dramatist
C. A lyrist
D. A satirist
Answer: C

Q2. What was a frequent snare for Swinburne in his poetry?
A. His excessive political conservatism
B. His fondness for mere verbal effects
C. His inability to write in meter
D. His strict adherence to realism
Answer: B

Q3. Which of the following works is a romantic comedy by Sir Henry Taylor?
A. Philip van Artevelde
B. The Virgin Widow, or A Sicilian Summer
C. The Quest of the Sangraal
D. Proverbial Philosophy
Answer: B

Q4. Robert Stephen Hawker was the extremely eccentric vicar of Morwenstow in which English county?
A. Devon
B. Yorkshire
C. Cornwall
D. Kent
Answer: C

Q5. What is considered Robert Stephen Hawker's finest poem, full of the genuine spirit of medieval adventure?
A. The Quest of the Sangraal
B. Idylls of the King
C. The Earthly Paradise
D. Tristram of Lyonesse
Answer: A

Q6. Who produced the famous free translation, or paraphrase, of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam?
A. Sir Henry Taylor
B. Robert Stephen Hawker
C. Edward FitzGerald
D. Martin Farquhar Tupper
Answer: C

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Q7. In which century did the original Persian astronomer-poet, Omar Khayyam, live?
A. The ninth century
B. The eleventh century
C. The thirteenth century
D. The fifteenth century
Answer: B

Q8. Did Edward FitzGerald's translation of the Rubaiyat achieve immediate success?
A. Yes, it was an instant bestseller
B. No, it had little success at first, but gradually won its way
C. It was completely ignored until the 20th century
D. It was banned upon publication
Answer: B

Q9. Who was the author of the highly didactic collection 'Proverbial Philosophy'?
A. Martin Farquhar Tupper
B. Edward FitzGerald
C. Robert Stephen Hawker
D. Sir Henry Taylor
Answer: A

Q10. What is the current critical standing of 'Proverbial Philosophy', despite selling by the hundred thousand in its day?
A. It is still a widely read classic
B. It is relegated to the dust-heap of unread things
C. It is celebrated as the pinnacle of Victorian philosophy
D. It is studied closely for its metrical innovations
Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 46)

Page 230 - The Spasmodic School and Other Minor Poets

Q1. Upon which enormous poem does Philip James Bailey's reputation rest?
A. The Earthly Paradise
B. Festus
C. The Roman
D. Balder
Answer: B

Q2. 'Festus' was commonly regarded as the principal agency in fostering which school of poetry?
A. The Lake School
B. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
C. The Spasmodic School
D. The Parnassian School
Answer: C

Q3. How did Tennyson sum up Philip James Bailey's 'Festus'?
A. As the greatest poem of the century
B. As a dull poem containing many grand things
C. As completely devoid of merit
D. As an exact copy of 'Paradise Lost'
Answer: B

Q4. Which two writers are given as examples of exploded reputations from the spasmodic school?
A. Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris
B. Sydney Dobell and Alexander Smith
C. Matthew Arnold and Arthur Hugh Clough
D. James Thomson and Edward FitzGerald
Answer: B

Q5. James Thomson is known for which poem of pessimism and blank despair?
A. Balder
B. Life Drama
C. The City of Dreadful Night
D. The Roman
Answer: C

Q6. Lord Macaulay won fame with which stirring work of poetry?
A. Lost Tales of Miletus
B. Lays of Ancient Rome
C. King Arthur
D. The Spanish Gypsy
Answer: B

Q7. Which versatile author wrote the romantic epic 'King Arthur' and 'Lost Tales of Miletus'?

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A. Lord Macaulay
B. Lord Lytton
C. Thackeray
D. Kingsley
Answer: B

Q8. The author notes that George Eliot's poetry is considerable in quantity, but lacking in what?
A. Intellectual qualities
B. Moral qualities
C. Real poetic inspiration
D. Correct grammar
Answer: C

Q9. Which of the following is a poetic work by George Eliot?
A. The Legend of Jubal
B. The Saint's Tragedy
C. Andromeda
D. Life Drama
Answer: A

Q10. Charles Kingsley's poetic works, which leave readers regretting there is so little of it, include which two notable pieces?
A. The Saint's Tragedy and Andromeda
B. The Spanish Gypsy and Agatha
C. King Arthur and Lays of Ancient Rome
D. The Roman and Balder
Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 46)

Page 231 - The Age of Tennyson: Carlyle

Q1. Who is described as incomparably the greatest figure in the general prose literature of his age?
A. John Ruskin
B. Thomas Carlyle
C. Matthew Arnold
D. Lord Macaulay
Answer: B

Q2. In what year was Thomas Carlyle born?
A. 1795
B. 1800
C. 1809
D. 1812
Answer: A

Q3. What was the occupation of Thomas Carlyle's father?
A. A clergyman
B. A stonemason
C. A schoolmaster
D. A wealthy landowner
Answer: B

Q4. Thomas Carlyle sprang straight from the rugged peasantry of which country?
A. Ireland
B. Wales
C. Scotland
D. England
Answer: C

Q5. Which strict religious doctrine in which he was bred left a lasting impression on Carlyle's mind?
A. Methodism
B. Roman Catholicism
C. The old Calvinism
D. Anglicanism
Answer: C

Q6. At which university did Thomas Carlyle matriculate in 1809?
A. Oxford University
B. Cambridge University
C. Edinburgh University
D. Glasgow University
Answer: C

Q7. What was Carlyle's parents' original design for his career?

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A. That he should become a doctor
B. That he should enter the Scottish Church
C. That he should be a lawyer
D. That he should join the military
Answer: B

Q8. Why did Carlyle find it impossible to enter the Scottish Church?
A. He lacked the necessary funds for training
B. Radical changes in his religious views made it impossible
C. He failed his university exams
D. He was drafted into the army
Answer: B

Q9. What phrase is used to describe the period when Carlyle was striving vainly to recover his lost belief?
A. The dark night of the soul
B. The howling wilderness of infidelity
C. The slough of despond
D. The valley of the shadow of death
Answer: B

Q10. What ended Carlyle's years of doubt and restored him to a mood of courage and faith?
A. A long conversation with his father
B. A moment of mystical illumination, or 'spiritual new birth'
C. Reading the works of John Stuart Mill
D. A journey to Rome
Answer: B