History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Page 22 - The Making of the English Language

Q1. Which of the following works is a versified account of scripture history and saint legends?

A. Handlyng Synne

B. Ayenbite of Inwyt

C. Cursor Mundi

D. Ormulum

Answer: C

Q2. What makes the period between the Conquest and Chaucer highly important?

A. The vast amount of poetry produced

B. It is more important from the linguistic point of view than literature

C. The invention of the printing press

D. The complete dominance of Latin in England

Answer: B

Q3. What was the final linguistic product of the three hundred years following the Norman Conquest?

A. A pure Teutonic language

B. A mixed or compound language influenced by Norman French and Anglo-Saxon

C. A completely new Romance language

D. A dialect of Old Norse

Answer: B

Q4. Which language long continued to be the recognized official language and language of fashion after the Conquest?

A. Latin

B. Norman French

C. Old English

D. Celtic

Answer: B

Q5. What event in 1362 signalized the complete triumph of the English language?

A. The publication of Chaucer's first book

B. A statute proclaiming all law court proceedings should be in English

C. The signing of Magna Charta

D. The defeat of the French army

Answer: B

Q6. Before 1362, what had already shown the growth of a literary public among those who 'had no French'?

A. Numerous English translations of French romances

B. The establishment of English universities

C. The printing of English bibles

D. Royal speeches delivered in English

Answer: A

Q7. As French was disappearing, what issue existed with the new English tongue?

A. It was forbidden by law

B. There was as yet no standard form; it was broken up into dialects

C. Only the nobility spoke it

D. It had no alphabet

Answer: B

Q8. Which of the following was NOT one of the fundamental English dialects mentioned?

A. Northern English

B. Midland English

C. Southern English

D. Western English

Answer: D

Q9. Which English dialect tended to gain ascendancy due to the capital and the two centers of learning?

A. Northern English

B. East Midland English

C. Southern English

D. West Midland English

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Q10. Who is considered the first of our really national English poets?

A. Layamon

B. Orm

C. Geoffrey Chaucer

D. William the Conqueror

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Page 23 - Table of English Literature Before Chaucer

Q1. When were the Jutes, Saxons, and Angles settling in Britain?

A. 449-547

B. 1066-1154

C. 1340-1400

D. 597-635

Answer: A

Q2. According to the table, when was Christianity introduced into Kent by St. Augustine?

A. 449

B. 597

C. 871

D. 1066

Answer: B

Q3. When did the Norman Conquest take place?

A. 871

B. 1066

C. 1215

D. 1340

Answer: B

Q4. In what century were Alfred's translations produced?

A. 8th century

B. 9th century

C. 10th century

D. 11th century

Answer: B

Q5. Which work from the English Revival is dated around 1205?

A. Orm's Ormulum

B. Layamon's Brut

C. The Ancren Riwle

D. Cursor Mundi

Answer: B

Q6. Who was King of England during the start of the English Revival (1199-1216)?

A. Alfred

B. Edward III

C. John

D. Richard II

Answer: C

Q7. What was the approximate birth year of Chaucer according to the table?

A. 1220

B. 1303

C. 1340

D. 1400

Answer: C

Q8. During whose reign (1337-1377) did works like Ayenbite of Inwyt appear?

A. John

B. Edward III

C. Richard II

D. Henry IV

Answer: B

Q9. In what decade was Cursor Mundi written?

A. 1205-1215

B. 1220-1225

C. 1303-1310

D. 1320-1325

Answer: D

Q10. When was Beowulf fashioned into an epic, according to the table?

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

A. 6th century

B. 8th century

C. 10th century

D. 12th century

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Page 24 - The Age of Chaucer (Part 1)

Q1. During the reigns of which English kings did Chaucer live?

A. John, Henry III, Edward I

B. Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV

C. Henry V, Henry VI, Edward IV

D. Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI

Answer: B

Q2. What does Edward's reign mark the highest development of in England?

A. Industrial civilization

B. Medieval civilization

C. The Renaissance

D. Neoclassical civilization

Answer: B

Q3. The spirit of Edward's court was characterized by romantic idealism, seen in which Chaucer tale?

A. The Miller's Tale

B. The Pardoner's Tale

C. The Knight's Tale

D. The Wife of Bath's Tale

Answer: C

Q4. Which famous chronicler wrote about the victories of Crecy and Poictiers?

A. Chaucer

B. Wyclif

C. Froissart

D. Layamon

Answer: C

Q5. Despite the gay life of the king and nobility, what was the condition of the masses?

A. They were incredibly wealthy

B. They enjoyed a golden age of education

C. They were sunk in a condition of deplorable misery

D. They held all political power

Answer: C

Q6. What awful epidemic swept away more than a third of the population in 1348-9?

A. The Spanish Flu

B. The Black Death

C. The Great Plague of London

D. Smallpox

Answer: B

Q7. In what years did the Black Death reappear after 1348-9?

A. 1350, 1355, 1360

B. 1362, 1367, 1370

C. 1380, 1385, 1390

D. 1400, 1405, 1410

Answer: B

Q8. How did new tyrannous laws passed to regulate labor affect the situation?

A. They completely solved the poverty crisis

B. They only made bad matters worse

C. They enriched the peasants

D. They ended the French wars

Answer: B

Q9. What effect did the successive wars with France have on the English mood initially?

A. They caused immediate rebellion

B. They gave a buoyant courage and stimulus to national ambition

C. They made everyone want to learn French

D. They caused a mass exodus from England

Answer: B

Q10. How did the Chronicles of Froissart read?

A. Like a dry legal document

B. Like a brilliant novel rather than sober history

C. Like a religious text

D. Like a scientific manual

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Page 25 - The Age of Chaucer (Part 2)

Q1. What was the immediate cause of the general rising of the common folk under Wat Tyler?

A. The desire for a new king

B. Heavy taxation burdens from the French wars

C. The introduction of the printing press

D. A dispute over the Bible's translation

Answer: B

Q2. What was the temper of England in Chaucer's closing years compared to his birth?

A. Much happier and prosperous

B. Very different; much glamour had gone and men saw stern realities

C. Exactly the same

D. Completely French in culture

Answer: B

Q3. What greatly contributed to the increasing evils of Chaucer's age regarding religion?

A. The closure of all churches

B. The corruption of the Church

C. A ban on Christianity

D. The Crusades

Answer: B

Q4. How does Chaucer's writing show he was alive to the shocking state of the religious world?

A. By writing theological treatises

B. By drawing portraits of the fat monk, wanton friar, and greedy pardoner

C. By openly calling for the Pope's removal

D. By refusing to write about religious figures

Answer: B

Q5. Who is referred to as 'the morning star of the Reformation'?

A. Geoffrey Chaucer

B. John Wyclif

C. John Ball

D. Jack Straw

Answer: B

Q6. What great task did John Wyclif dedicate his life to?

A. Expanding the English empire

B. Reviving spiritual Christianity in England

C. Translating French romances

D. Building new monasteries

Answer: B

Q7. What did Wyclif produce with the help of his disciples?

A. A complete English version of the Bible

B. A new legal code for England

C. The first printing press in London

D. An English dictionary

Answer: A

Q8. Wyclif's translation was the first translation of the scriptures into what?

A. Latin

B. Greek

C. Any modern vernacular tongue

D. Norman French

Answer: C

Q9. What two forces were chief active forces in the England of the later fourteenth century?

A. Industrialization and urbanization

B. Social unrest and a new religious movement

C. Scientific discovery and exploration

D. Celtic revival and Roman law

Answer: B

Q10. What were Wyclif's itinerant preachers known as?

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

A. The holy friars

B. The wealthy prelates

C. His 'poor priests'

D. The pardoners

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 5)

Page 26 - The Age of Chaucer (Part 3)

Q1. What third influence did much to change the current of intellectual interests in Chaucer's age?

A. The Industrial Revolution

B. The new learning (Humanism)

C. The discovery of America

D. The Norman Conquest

Answer: B

Q2. Up to this point, scholarship had largely been the concern of whom?

A. The commercial classes

B. The King and his court

C. The Church

D. The peasants

Answer: C

Q3. Where had the spirit of the new learning arisen?

A. In France

B. In Germany

C. In Italy

D. In Spain

Answer: C

Q4. What was the new learning chiefly derived from?

A. The study of modern science

B. A renewed study of classical antiquity (Greece and Rome)

C. The invention of the printing press

D. Contact with the New World

Answer: B

Q5. Who were the two celebrated Italian writers that led this great revival?

A. Dante and Machiavelli

B. Petrarch and Boccaccio

C. Galileo and Da Vinci

D. Cicero and Virgil

Answer: B

Q6. What was the new culture of classical revival called?

A. Scholasticism

B. Humanism

C. Puritanism

D. Romanticism

Answer: B

Q7. In England, when were the promises of the fourteenth century's intellectual activity finally fulfilled?

A. In the fifteenth century

B. In the sixteenth century

C. They were never fulfilled

D. During Chaucer's lifetime

Answer: B

Q8. When and where was Geoffrey Chaucer born?

A. About 1340 in London

B. About 1300 in Paris

C. About 1362 in Oxford

D. About 1320 in Yorkshire

Answer: A

Q9. What was Chaucer's father's profession?

A. A parish priest

B. A merchant vintner

C. A knight

D. A wandering gleeman

Answer: B

Q10. What happened to Chaucer in 1359 while with the English army in France?

A. He was killed in battle

B. He was taken prisoner but soon ransomed

C. He became a general

D. He deserted the army

Answer: B