History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 51)

Page 252 - Epilogue to the Victorian Age

Q1. What event in 1887 is taken as a convenient landmark to denote the virtual end of the Age of Tennyson?

A. The death of Robert Browning

B. The first jubilee of Queen Victoria

C. The publication of The Yellow Book

D. The death of Thomas Carlyle

Answer: B

Q2. At the death of Tennyson in 1892, what kind of personality remained to interpret the sentiments of the British nation?

A. A new group of romantic poets

B. Oscar Wilde

C. No dominant personality remained

D. Thomas Hardy

Answer: C

Q3. Whose idea of human diversity and complexity attracted the younger generation more than Tennyson's simplicity and unity?

A. Browning's

B. Arnold's

C. Swinburne's

D. Pater's

Answer: A

Q4. According to the text, what was dead regarding the old hope in the discovery of One Universal Truth?

A. Religion

B. Philosophy

C. Dogma

D. Science

Answer: C

Q5. The apparently solid foundations that had sustained the Victorian Age began to what?

A. Strengthen

B. Crumble

C. Evolve

D. Multiply

Answer: B

Q6. What vastly extended the bounds of thought, speculation, and man's control over Nature in the Victorian Age?

A. Politicians and philosophers

B. Scientists and inventors

C. Priests and ministers

D. Painters and musicians

Answer: B

Q7. What was the Age of Hardy period assigned in the text?

A. 1887-1928

B. 1860-1890

C. 1900-1930

D. 1850-1900

Answer: A

Q8. How did the Victorian achievement fare when stripped of meretricious glitter?

A. It was diminished

B. It was forgotten

C. It was heightened, not dimmed

D. It was considered shallow

Answer: C

Q9. What effect did the enlargement of boundaries have on an influential section of Victorian people?

A. It made them humble

B. It bred a dangerous sense of self-sovereignty and illimitable attainment

C. It caused widespread panic

D. It led to a return to asceticism

Answer: B

Q10. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 was described as a proud display of what?

A. Military might alone

B. Religious devotion

C. Pageantry and magniloquence

D. Scientific achievement

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 51)

Page 253 - The Eighteen-Nineties and the Decadents

Q1. The period of the Victorian Age at its high noon was second only to which other age?

A. The Augustan Age

B. The Romantic Age

C. The Elizabethan Age

D. The Restoration Age

Answer: C

Q2. According to the text, what is the first lesson of history regarding greatness?

A. Greatness is permanent

B. Greatness is periodic

C. Greatness is illusion

D. Greatness is constantly increasing

Answer: B

Q3. In periods of relaxation following greatness, what do the 'little geniuses' commonly do?

A. Create a completely new tradition

B. Either imitate slavishly or revolt arrogantly

C. Establish new golden ages

D. Write exclusively in prose

Answer: B

Q4. Although the forty years between 1887 and 1928 are called the Age of Hardy, was Hardy a modernist or a spiritual director during that time?

A. Yes, he was the primary modernist leader

B. No, he was no modernist, though admired as an exceptional genius

C. Yes, he founded the decadent movement

D. No, he completely rejected all literature of his time

Answer: B

Q5. In the last decade of the century, a new group of authors set out to demonstrate that all art is what?

A. Useful

B. Moral

C. Useless (in the sense of being free from morality)

D. Political

Answer: C

Q6. Who was the foremost of this group (the decadents) in the 1890s?

A. Walter Pater

B. Oscar Wilde

C. Arthur Symons

D. Aubrey Beardsley

Answer: B

Q7. Whose theories attracted Oscar Wilde and who found himself the reluctant mentor of the Aesthetic Movement?

A. John Ruskin

B. Walter Pater

C. Matthew Arnold

D. Thomas Carlyle

Answer: B

Q8. In which book did Walter Pater suggest a tentative philosophy of life arising from cultivating moments of exquisite passion?

A. The Renaissance

B. Marius the Epicurean

C. Imaginary Portraits

D. Intentions

Answer: A

Q9. According to Pater's essay, what is the end, rather than the fruit of experience?

A. Abstract morality

B. Religious devotion

C. Experience itself

D. Political system

Answer: C

Q10. To Pater himself, this philosophy amounted to little more than an interesting intellectual conception; what did it develop into for the young 'decadents'?

A. The pursuit of pure sensation divorced from moral control

B. A strict religious revival

C. A new political party

D. A focus on industrial design

Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 51)

Page 254 - Oscar Wilde

Q1. What event in 1895 prevented a balanced appreciation of Oscar Wilde's work at the time?

A. His sudden death

B. His exile to France

C. His arrest, trial, and sentence to Reading Gaol

D. His winning of the Nobel Prize

Answer: C

Q2. What series of dialogues on literature and the arts features Wilde's polished and jewelled prose?

A. The Renaissance

B. De Profundis

C. Intentions

D. The Importance of Being Earnest

Answer: C

Q3. Which play by Wilde is described as a comedy of manners on a level with Sheridan's best?

A. The Happy Prince

B. Intentions

C. The Importance of Being Earnest

D. The Ballad of Reading Gaol

Answer: C

Q4. What blemishes Wilde's fairy tales according to the text?

A. Poor grammar

B. Sophistication and heavy-lidded world-weariness below the surface

C. Complete lack of imagination

D. Overt political propaganda

Answer: B

Q5. Which two works are described as affecting but neither touching the absolute depths of sincerity?

A. Intentions and The Happy Prince

B. De Profundis and The Ballad of Reading Gaol

C. The Importance of Being Earnest and Salome

D. The Picture of Dorian Gray and Lady Windermere's Fan

Answer: B

Q6. What does the text say Oscar Wilde was incapable of?

A. Writing witty dialogue

B. Absolute sincerity and simplicity

C. Entertaining an audience

D. Understanding French literature

Answer: B

Q7. What was Oscar Wilde always doing, even in his agony?

A. Praying

B. Posturing

C. Laughing

D. Singing

Answer: B

Q8. Who was Oscar Wilde variously represented as following his trial?

A. A genius and a prophet

B. A satyr and a martyr

C. A hero and a saint

D. A politician and a philosopher

Answer: B

Q9. The decadents absurdly considered it an obligation to be familiar with subjects like what?

A. Science and industry

B. Lying, poison, and masks

C. Agriculture and farming

D. Theology and dogma

Answer: B

Q10. What prevented the most intimate display of Wilde's bleeding heart from carrying the conviction of sincerity?

A. His lack of vocabulary

B. That something of Byron which lived in him

C. His focus on comedy

D. His reliance on Pater's philosophy

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 51)

Page 255 - Other Decadents and Hardy's Origins

Q1. Who were the artists whose drawings and paintings gave the 1890s a striking part of its typical character?

A. Ruskin and Turner

B. Aubrey Beardsley and Charles Conder

C. Hunt and Millais

D. Rossetti and Morris

Answer: B

Q2. Which poet employed the 'décor of the town' and celebrated hectic passions using a symbolistic style based on French poetry?

A. Lionel Johnson

B. Ernest Dowson

C. Arthur Symons

D. John Davidson

Answer: C

Q3. Which true poet was on the fringe of the decadent movement but free from its hotter extravagances?

A. Ernest Dowson

B. Arthur Symons

C. Lionel Johnson

D. Oscar Wilde

Answer: C

Q4. Who wrote a sequence of four long poems ending with The Testament of John Davidson?

A. Ernest Dowson

B. John Davidson

C. Lionel Johnson

D. Arthur Symons

Answer: B

Q5. What do Davidson's Testaments display less of when seen from a distance in time?

A. Deep thought (displaying instead feverish personal preoccupation)

B. Rhythmic structure

C. Political satire

D. Religious devotion

Answer: A

Q6. Which two periodicals were founded for the publication of writings and pictures in the mode of the nineties?

A. The Edinburgh Review and The Quarterly

B. The Yellow Book and The Savoy

C. The Tatler and The Spectator

D. The Cornhill and Macmillan's

Answer: B

Q7. Where are the chief signs of an organized anti-Victorian movement seen?

A. In the works of the Pre-Raphaelites

B. In the works of the decadents

C. In the novels of Dickens

D. In the poetry of Tennyson

Answer: B

Q8. In whose works was there from the beginning an implied disagreement with current conventions, apart from Samuel Butler?

A. Thomas Hardy

B. George Meredith

C. Robert Louis Stevenson

D. Anthony Trollope

Answer: A

Q9. Who wrote Erewhon (1872) and The Way of All Flesh?

A. Thomas Hardy

B. Samuel Butler

C. Oscar Wilde

D. Walter Pater

Answer: B

Q10. Where did Thomas Hardy pass most of his life?

A. Near Dorchester

B. In London

C. In Scotland

D. In Ireland

Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 51)

Page 256 - Thomas Hardy's Novels

Q1. What was Thomas Hardy's early training, which gave him intimate knowledge of local churches utilized in his writings?

A. A lawyer

B. A doctor

C. An architect

D. A teacher

Answer: C

Q2. What ancient name did Hardy place permanently on the literary map to represent Dorset and the contiguous counties?

A. Mercia

B. Wessex

C. Northumbria

D. East Anglia

Answer: B

Q3. As a writer, what is Hardy described as being?

A. A natural historian

B. A living paradox (a natural poet who wrote much poetry in prose)

C. A pure decadent

D. A strict classicist

Answer: B

Q4. Hardy's genius is described as entirely what?

A. Sculpturesque

B. Musical

C. Painterly

D. Theatrical

Answer: A

Q5. What does the text say cannot be induced from granite chips (except by a miracle)?

A. Epics

B. Novels

C. Lyrics

D. Dramas

Answer: C

Q6. What is held in right proportion and perspective in most of Hardy's novels, balanced by massivity of scene and unquenchable courage?

A. Political satire

B. Comedy of manners

C. His emphasis upon the human tragedy

D. Scientific analysis

Answer: C

Q7. Which chapter of Tess of the D'Urbervilles outraged the religious conscience of 1891 and offends the aesthetic conscience today?

A. The first chapter

B. The middle chapter

C. The last chapter

D. The prologue

Answer: C

Q8. What happens when an artist says more than exactly enough, according to the text?

A. A failure in artistry

B. A masterpiece is created

C. A philosophical triumph

D. A new genre is born

Answer: A

Q9. Which novel was Hardy's last, described as fatally injured by ruthlessness?

A. Jude the Obscure

B. The Mayor of Casterbridge

C. Far from the Madding Crowd

D. The Return of the Native

Answer: A

Q10. What are Sue and Jude never permitted to escape in Jude the Obscure?

A. Poverty

B. The shadowing hand of malignant fate

C. The police

D. Religious persecution

Answer: B