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Page 287 - Virginia Woolf and E.M. Forster

Q1. For most readers, Virginia Woolf's easiest book is:

A. The Waves

B. The Years

C. Orlando

D. To the Lighthouse

Answer: C

Q2. 'Orlando' is described as a fantasy released from the bonds of:

A. Love and hate

B. Time and place

C. Life and death

D. Magic and reality

Answer: B

Q3. Which two novels have a firmer structure but are selected by many admirers as Virginia Woolf's masterpieces?

A. Orlando and The Voyage Out

B. The Waves and The Years

C. To the Lighthouse and The Common Reader

D. The Voyage Out and Orlando

Answer: B

Q4. Virginia Woolf's critical essays were collected in volumes such as:

A. The Common Reader

B. Abinger Harvest

C. Two Cheers for Democracy

D. Left Hand, Right Hand

Answer: A

Q5. E.M. Forster wrote literary criticism of exceptional quality in:

A. The Common Reader

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B. Abinger Harvest and Two Cheers for Democracy

C. The Common Reader and Abinger Harvest

D. Two Cheers for Democracy and The Common Reader

Answer: B

Q6. E.M. Forster carried into the twentieth century the ideals of which period?

A. The Romantic period

B. The Elizabethan age

C. The Victorian liberal humanitarian ideals

D. The Augustan satirical ideals

Answer: C

Q7. E.M. Forster can be called a 'novelist's novelist' whose influence on other writers has been pervasive, though in twenty years he produced only:

A. Two novels

B. Three novels

C. Five novels

D. Ten novels

Answer: C

Q8. Which novel by E.M. Forster was the most widely read until 'A Passage to India'?

A. Howard's End

B. The Celestial Omnibus

C. The Hill of Devi

D. A Room with a View

Answer: A

Q9. 'A Passage to India' is a troubling novel with a subtly studied character in the unjustly accused:

A. Mr. Fielding

B. Dr. Aziz

C. Mrs. Moore

D. Miss Quested

Answer: B

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Q10. The basis of personal experience for 'A Passage to India' can be found in a later book by Forster called:

A. Abinger Harvest

B. Two Cheers for Democracy

C. The Hill of Devi

D. The Celestial Omnibus

Answer: C

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Page 288 - James Joyce and Somerset Maugham

Q1. The works of James Joyce have attracted a small army of expositors and explainers, and his greatest novel is considered to be:

A. Dubliners

B. Ulysses

C. Finnegans Wake

D. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Answer: B

Q2. 'Ulysses' is a long prose epic dealing with how many hours in the lives of a group of people in Dublin?

A. 12 hours

B. 24 hours

C. 48 hours

D. One week

Answer: B

Q3. Which of James Joyce's novels resembles a vast musical composition where sense gives way to sound?

A. Ulysses

B. Finnegans Wake

C. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

D. The Celestial Omnibus

Answer: B

Q4. 'Finnegans Wake' is described as a night in the dream world of a character named:

A. Stephen Dedalus

B. Leopold Bloom

C. H.C. Earwaker

D. Dr. Aziz

Answer: C

Q5. An earlier book by Joyce, which is relatively straightforward, is:

A. Finnegans Wake

B. Ulysses

C. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

D. The Hill of Devi

Answer: C

Q6. Somerset Maugham began to write in the:

A. 1880s

B. 1890s

C. 1910s

D. 1920s

Answer: B

Q7. Somerset Maugham was for a long time underestimated by critics who were misled by his:

A. Experimental style

B. Immense wealth

C. Popularity among ordinary readers

D. Political views

Answer: C

Q8. Which of the following is considered one of Somerset Maugham's first-rate novels?

A. Of Human Bondage

B. Finnegans Wake

C. Howard's End

D. Ulysses

Answer: A

Q9. 'The Circle' and 'Our Betters' are notable plays by:

A. Bernard Shaw

B. James Bridie

C. Somerset Maugham

D. J.B. Priestley

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 58)

Q10. Who was the controversial figure who might have been accepted as a great novelist if not for his mission to release people from moral restraints?

A. James Joyce

B. D.H. Lawrence

C. Aldous Huxley

D. George Orwell

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 58)

Page 289 - Satirists and Younger Novelists

Q1. In the 1920s, Aldous Huxley appeared like a modern:

A. Shakespeare

B. Jonathan Swift

C. Charles Dickens

D. Alexander Pope

Answer: B

Q2. 'Point Counter Point' was a book by Aldous Huxley that contained:

A. A romantic story of medieval knights

B. Bitter satirical portraits of writers and intellectual society

C. A utopian vision of the future

D. A philosophical discourse on religion

Answer: B

Q3. In 1932, Aldous Huxley envisaged a future in which the populace would be mentally conditioned by totalitarian despots in his book:

A. Animal Farm

B. Nineteen Eighty-Four

C. Brave New World

D. Mortal Coils

Answer: C

Q4. Who developed the theme of a totalitarian future in still darker tones in 'Nineteen Eighty-Four'?

A. Aldous Huxley

B. George Orwell

C. Graham Greene

D. Evelyn Waugh

Answer: B

Q5. George Orwell suddenly became widely known in 1945 for his short political satire titled:

A. Brave New World

B. Point Counter Point

C. Animal Farm

D. Antic Hay

Answer: C

Q6. 'Sinister Street', a fine novel of childhood and young manhood at Oxford, made which author famous?

A. Hugh Walpole

B. Compton Mackenzie

C. J.B. Priestley

D. Graham Greene

Answer: B

Q7. J.B. Priestley's 'The Good Companions' seemed to restore to general favour the full-blooded novel resembling the works of:

A. Jonathan Swift

B. Charles Dickens

C. Virginia Woolf

D. D.H. Lawrence

Answer: B

Q8. Which younger novelist took a leading place after the second World War by plunging his characters into depths of degradation?

A. Graham Greene

B. Evelyn Waugh

C. Charles Morgan

D. Joyce Cary

Answer: A

Q9. In Graham Greene's novels, characters are often redeemed only by the way of:

A. Social revolution

B. Divine compassion and salvation

C. Financial success

D. Scientific progress

Answer: B

Q10. Like Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh has religious implications in his novels because he is a:

A. Devout Anglican

B. Roman Catholic

C. Methodist minister

D. Quaker

Answer: B

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Page 290 - Later Novelists and Women Writers

Q1. Evelyn Waugh began as a farcical humorist in stories such as:

A. Brighton Rock and The Heart of the Matter

B. Decline and Fall and Vile Bodies

C. Animal Farm and Nineteen Eighty-Four

D. Of Human Bondage and Cakes and Ale

Answer: B

Q2. Which of the following is considered Evelyn Waugh's best sober novel?

A. The Loved One

B. Decline and Fall

C. Vile Bodies

D. Brideshead Revisited

Answer: D

Q3. Charles Morgan's novels, such as 'The Fountain' and 'The Judge's Story', are marked rather by a:

A. Roughly hewn realism

B. Carefully groomed style

C. Bitter satirical tone

D. Farce and humor

Answer: B

Q4. Which novelist was outstanding among recent novelists for his varied selection and treatment of subjects, passing from African life to wartime evacuee children?

A. Charles Morgan

B. Joyce Cary

C. Evelyn Waugh

D. Graham Greene

Answer: B

Q5. Joyce Cary wrote a novel about the shameless doings of a rascally artist named Jimson titled:

A. The African Witch

B. Charley is My Darling

C. The House of Children

D. The Horse's Mouth

Answer: D

Q6. The rapid growth of what led increasing numbers of women to take up a literary career?

A. University education for women

B. Voting rights

C. Urban populations

D. Industrial factories

Answer: A

Q7. Rose Macaulay wrote an excellent historical novel of the seventeenth century titled:

A. Told by an Idiot

B. They Were Defeated

C. The World My Wilderness

D. Parents and Children

Answer: B

Q8. Ivy Compton-Burnett is described as a more difficult but more original and penetrating writer, known for novels such as:

A. The World My Wilderness

B. Parents and Children

C. Death of the Heart

D. The Man Born to be King

Answer: B

Q9. Whose novels and short stories are said to have the literary distinction of Virginia Woolf but with a firmer outline and satisfying grasp of character?

A. Rose Macaulay

B. Ivy Compton-Burnett

C. Elizabeth Bowen

D. Dorothy Sayers

Answer: C

Q10. Dorothy Sayers gave the detective novel an intellectual and religious significance before turning to broadcast Christian plays like:

A. Death of the Heart

B. They Were Defeated

C. The Man Born to be King

D. Parents and Children

Answer: C

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Page 291 - The Short Story and Prose Drama

Q1. The English short story ventured into different paths in the 1920s, largely under the influence of the Russian writer:

A. Tolstoy

B. Dostoevsky

C. Tchekov (Chekhov)

D. Pushkin

Answer: C

Q2. The influence of Tchekov concentrated on:

A. Complex plots and fast action

B. Atmosphere rather than plot and firm characterisation

C. Political propaganda

D. Historical facts

Answer: B

Q3. Katherine Mansfield was born in:

A. England

B. France

C. New Zealand

D. Germany

Answer: C

Q4. Katherine Mansfield's carefully composed style was allied with a remarkable power of understanding:

A. Political leaders

B. Children, and also unhappy and thwarted people

C. Criminals and detectives

D. Military commanders

Answer: B

Q5. Bernard Shaw continued to write almost up to the time of his death in 1950 at the age of:

A. Eighty

B. Eighty-five

C. Ninety

D. Ninety-four

Answer: D

Q6. It is the general opinion that Bernard Shaw wrote nothing important after:

A. The Apple Cart

B. Saint Joan

C. Village Wooing

D. Pygmalion

Answer: B

Q7. The text asserts it is obtuse to deny high merit to which two later plays by Bernard Shaw?

A. The Apple Cart and Village Wooing

B. Saint Joan and The Apple Cart

C. Major Barbara and Village Wooing

D. The Doctor's Dilemma and The Apple Cart

Answer: A

Q8. Bernard Shaw's great virtue as a writer on current topics was that he:

A. Always agreed with popular prejudices

B. Saw beyond immediate problems and refused to be swayed by popular prejudices

C. Focused strictly on aesthetics

D. Ignored politics entirely

Answer: B

Q9. Who was the only other prose dramatist in the second quarter of this century whose plays are as good to read in print as to see in a theatre?

A. James Bridie

B. Christopher Fry

C. T.S. Eliot

D. Somerset Maugham

Answer: A

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Q10. Before turning to authorship, James Bridie practised as a:

A. Lawyer

B. Doctor

C. Teacher

D. Priest

Answer: B