History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Page 37 - Poetry of the Fifteenth Century (Part 1)

Q1. How was mental activity in the universities largely wasted during the fifteenth century?

A. By engaging in wars

B. In endless and profitless controversies over the dry abstractions of medieval philosophy

C. By banning all books

D. Through studying classical Greek

Answer: B

Q2. Outside the universities, what kind of spirit prevailed among the fast-rising middle classes?

A. A deeply religious and spiritual one

B. A mercenary and sordid spirit hostile to intellectual interests

C. A highly artistic and creative spirit

D. A revolutionary and radical spirit

Answer: B

Q3. How is the greater part of fifteenth century English verse described?

A. As highly original and innovative

B. As purely imitative, attempting to reproduce Chaucer's matter and style

C. As focused solely on religious themes

D. As being written completely in Latin

Answer: B

Q4. 'The Flower and the Leaf' is a beautiful poem from this era. Who was it long ascribed to before being attributed to an anonymous writer?

A. John Gower

B. William Langland

C. Geoffrey Chaucer

D. William Shakespeare

Answer: C

Q5. Who were two of the best known 'Chaucerians' (imitators of Chaucer)?

A. Dante and Boccaccio

B. Thomas Occleve (Hoccleve) and John Lydgate

C. Layamon and Orm

D. Wat Tyler and Jack Straw

Answer: B

Q6. What long poem did Hoccleve write in Chaucer's seven-line stanza?

A. The Canterbury Tales

B. The Governail of Princes

C. The Falles of Princes

D. The Boke of the Duchesse

Answer: B

Q7. What does Hoccleve describe in the prologue of 'The Governail of Princes'?

A. His travels to Italy

B. His grief on Chaucer's death and his master's praises

C. The history of the Norman Conquest

D. A detailed account of his military career

Answer: B

Q8. John Lydgate was a learned monk of which order and location?

A. Dominican friar in London

B. Benedictine monk of Bury St. Edmunds

C. Franciscan friar in Oxford

D. Augustinian canon in Cambridge

Answer: B

Q9. Which of the following is one of John Lydgate's longer productions?

A. The Storie of Thebes

B. The Vision of Piers Plowman

C. Handlyng Synne

D. Cursor Mundi

Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Q10. Where was the best poetry of the fifteenth century written?

A. In Wales

B. In southern England

C. In Scotland

D. In Ireland

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Page 38 - Poetry of the Fifteenth Century (Part 2)

Q1. What is the title of the long poem written by James I of Scotland?

A. The Thistle and the Rose

B. The King's Quair

C. Palice of Honour

D. Testament of Cresseid

Answer: B

Q2. Chaucer's seven-line stanza used by James I is often called what?

A. The 'rhyme royal'

B. The 'Spenserian stanza'

C. The 'heroic couplet'

D. Blank verse

Answer: A

Q3. Who is considered the greatest British poet between Chaucer and Spenser?

A. John Lydgate

B. Thomas Hoccleve

C. William Dunbar

D. Robert Henryson

Answer: C

Q4. What event did William Dunbar's poem 'The Thistle and the Rose' commemorate?

A. The end of the Wars of the Roses

B. The marriage of James IV of Scotland and Margaret (daughter of Henry VII)

C. The signing of the Magna Charta

D. The publication of the first printed book

Answer: B

Q5. Which Scottish poet produced 'Testament of Cresseid' following the Chaucerian model?

A. William Dunbar

B. James I

C. Robert Henryson

D. Gawain Douglas

Answer: C

Q6. Gawain Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld, wrote original prologues for his translation of what classic work?

A. The Iliad

B. The Odyssey

C. The Aeneid

D. Metamorphoses

Answer: C

Q7. How did the Scottish poets differ from the English disciples in their treatment of nature?

A. They ignored nature entirely

B. They painted real Scotch scenery directly from reality instead of just using literary convention

C. They only wrote about nature in winter

D. They viewed nature as evil

Answer: B

Q8. Three of Douglas's prologues deal with the country in which three seasons?

A. Spring, summer, and autumn

B. Spring, autumn, and winter

C. Summer, autumn, and winter

D. Spring, summer, and winter

Answer: B

Q9. What kind of minor verse became increasingly popular in the century after Chaucer's death?

A. Epic poetry

B. Sonnets

C. Ballad literature (like Robin Hood cycle)

D. Blank verse plays

Answer: C

Q10. How did ballads like 'The Battle of Otterburn' impact the English people?

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

A. They caused political rebellions

B. They fostered a love of poetry among the people

C. They replaced all religious texts

D. They were banned by the king

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Page 39 - Prose of the Fifteenth Century (Part 1)

Q1. During the 15th century, what type of literature was showing more promising work than verse?

A. Drama

B. Prose

C. Sonnets

D. Elegies

Answer: B

Q2. What bold break with tradition did Reginald Pecock make in his writing?

A. He wrote exclusively in French

B. He set out his religious arguments in English instead of Latin

C. He rejected Christianity completely

D. He wrote his sermons as epic poems

Answer: B

Q3. Which of the following is a prose landmark written by Reginald Pecock?

A. The Vision of Piers Plowman

B. Repressor of Overmuch Blaming of the Clergy

C. The King's Quair

D. Brut

Answer: B

Q4. Sir John Fortescue is known for writing a political treatise about the difference between what?

A. The rich and the poor

B. An Absolute and a Limited Monarchy

C. Church and State

D. England and France

Answer: B

Q5. What is considered the one really great book (and prose production) of the 15th century?

A. Morte d'Arthur

B. The Canterbury Tales

C. The Fairie Queene

D. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Answer: A

Q6. Who authored the Morte d'Arthur?

A. William Caxton

B. Sir Thomas Malory

C. Reginald Pecock

D. Sir John Fortescue

Answer: B

Q7. According to Caxton's statement, in what year did the author complete Morte d'Arthur?

A. 1340

B. 1400

C. 1470

D. 1500

Answer: C

Q8. From what sources did Malory compile his work, Morte d'Arthur?

A. A number of French romances dealing with King Arthur and his knights

B. Purely original English folklore

C. Ancient Roman histories

D. Greek mythology

Answer: A

Q9. What was Malory's main object in compiling Morte d'Arthur?

A. To invent a completely new fictional world

B. To digest the scattered stories of King Arthur into a connected summary

C. To translate it into Latin for the Church

D. To satirize the knights of the Round Table

Answer: B

Q10. How did Malory treat his source materials?

A. He copied them exactly word-for-word

B. He rejected all French influence

C. With a very free hand (selecting, adapting, rearranging)

D. He only used materials approved by the King

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Page 40 - Prose of the Fifteenth Century (Part 2)

Q1. Why did Malory look back with sentimental regret while writing his book?

A. Because he missed his childhood

B. Because the medieval spirit was dying and the old feudal order was becoming a thing of the past

C. Because he wanted to be king

D. Because he was exiled in France

Answer: B

Q2. According to Caxton, what ideals of the ancient system of knighthood is Malory's book full of?

A. Treachery and political cunning

B. Prowess, hardiness, humanity, love, courtesy, and very gentleness

C. Financial greed and trade

D. Scientific discovery and logic

Answer: B

Q3. Why does Morte d'Arthur hold a high place in literary history aside from its intrinsic interest?

A. Because it was the first book ever printed

B. It has been a well-spring of inspiration to many modern poets like Tennyson

C. Because it caused a revolution in England

D. Because it was written in perfect modern English

Answer: B

Q4. Which of Tennyson's works is largely based upon Morte d'Arthur?

A. The Princess

B. In Memoriam

C. Idylls of the King

D. Ulysses

Answer: C

Q5. How is Malory's style described in terms of grammar and sentence structure?

A. Academically perfect

B. Artless, with little attention to grammar and often faulty sentence structure

C. Heavily reliant on Latin syntax

D. Written entirely in rhyming couplets

Answer: B

Q6. Where did the Italian revival of learning originate?

A. In 12th century Rome

B. With Petrarch and Boccaccio in the fourteenth century

C. With Lorenzo the Magnificent in the sixteenth century

D. In 15th century Venice

Answer: B

Q7. Who were two of the munificent patrons of scholarship and the arts during the great age of Italian humanism?

A. King Edward IV and Richard III

B. Cosimo de' Medici and Lorenzo the Magnificent

C. Dante and Virgil

D. Pope Urban II and Pope Leo X

Answer: B

Q8. What happened to monastic libraries during the 15th century revival of learning?

A. They were burned to the ground

B. They were ransacked to bring long-forgotten treasures of Greek and Latin literature to light

C. They were completely ignored by scholars

D. They were converted into modern universities

Answer: B

Q9. What boundless enthusiasm swept through the educated community during this time?

A. An enthusiasm for modern science

B. An enthusiasm for classic studies

C. An enthusiasm for exploring the New World

D. An enthusiasm for Gothic architecture

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Q10. What purpose does the 15th century serve in English literature?

A. A period of unparalleled production

B. A period of preparation for the great intellectual awakening of the 16th century

C. A period of pure romanticism

D. The absolute end of poetry

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

Page 41 - The Revival of Learning

Q1. How did the revival of learning emancipate thought from medieval theology?

A. By burning all theological books

B. By restoring the generous spirit and ideals of pagan antiquity

C. By enforcing strict new religious laws

D. By moving the Pope to England

Answer: B

Q2. The Renaissance is rightly regarded as a chief force in the making of what?

A. The feudal system

B. The Roman Empire

C. Modern European literatures

D. The English Monarchy

Answer: C

Q3. How did young Englishmen of rank bring Italian humanism back to English soil?

A. By conquering Italian cities

B. They considered a visit to Italy a necessary part of their education in the arts of life

C. By kidnapping Italian scholars

D. By purchasing all Italian artwork

Answer: B

Q4. What agency did more than any other to break down old intellectual boundaries by multiplying books?

A. The monastic scribes

B. The introduction of printing

C. The royal postal service

D. The opening of public libraries

Answer: B

Q5. Who became the first English printer?

A. William Tyndale

B. Miles Coverdale

C. William Caxton

D. Sir Thomas More

Answer: C

Q6. In what year did William Caxton set up his press at Westminster?

A. 1400

B. 1450

C. 1476

D. 1500

Answer: C

Q7. The literature of the early Tudor period is historically significant as the prelude to what?

A. The Dark Ages

B. The splendid outburst of creative energy that gave glory to the age of Elizabeth

C. The Romantic Period

D. The Victorian Era

Answer: B

Q8. Who published an English New Testament in 1525?

A. Miles Coverdale

B. William Tyndale

C. Sir Thomas More

D. Thomas Cromwell

Answer: B

Q9. Who published the complete English Bible in 1535?

A. William Tyndale

B. Miles Coverdale

C. Thomas Cromwell

D. Sir Thomas Malory

Answer: B

Q10. What is one of the most thoroughly typical works of the early Renaissance time, written by Sir Thomas

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 8)

More?

A. Morte d'Arthur

B. Utopia

C. Repressor of Overmuch Blaming of the Clergy

D. The Canterbury Tales

Answer: B