History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Page 47 - Morality Plays and Interludes

Q1. Who was a prominent humorous character introduced later into morality plays, often serving as the fun-maker?

A. The Devil

B. The Vice

C. The Hero

D. The King

Answer: B

Q2. The character of 'The Vice' is specially interesting as the direct forerunner of what later stage character?

A. The tragic hero

B. The Elizabethan stage clown

C. The chorus

D. The romantic lead

Answer: B

Q3. Why did the morality play have greater freedom in the handling of plot and characters than the miracle play?

A. Because the church had no control over it

B. Because it was not obliged to follow the prescribed lines of any given biblical story

C. Because it was written exclusively for the king

D. Because it was performed only by professional actors

Answer: B

Q4. During the Reformation period, what was the morality play often used for?

A. Purely comedic entertainment

B. Translating the Bible

C. Purposes of exposition and religious controversy by both parties

D. Training soldiers

Answer: C

Q5. As personified abstractions in morality plays began to resemble individual persons, what did the morality

play insensibly pass into?

A. Tragedy

B. Epic poetry

C. Comedy

D. History plays

Answer: C

Q6. What was the 'interlude'?

A. A late product of the dramatic development of the morality play

B. A long, serious religious epic

C. A type of sonnet

D. A musical performance without words

Answer: A

Q7. In its specific sense, what does the 'interlude' refer to?

A. A purely religious sermon

B. A short dramatic piece of a satiric character, far less serious than a morality play

C. A tragedy based on Roman history

D. A translation of a Greek play

Answer: B

Q8. Which name is closely associated with the growth of the interlude form in the early sixteenth century?

A. Geoffrey Chaucer

B. John Heywood

C. Thomas Sackville

D. Nicholas Udall

Answer: B

Q9. What is the title of John Heywood's most amusing interlude, featuring a Palmer, Pardoner, Pothecary, and Pedlar?

A. The Four Ps

B. Roister Doister

C. Everyman

D. Gorboduc

Answer: A

Q10. What is the climax of the competition in 'The Four Ps'?

A. A physical fight

B. A singing contest

C. A competition to see who can tell the biggest lie

D. A theological debate

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Page 48 - The Beginnings of Regular Comedy and Tragedy

Q1. Why are early experiments in play-writing (miracle/morality plays) historically important?

A. They provided a kind of 'Dame School' for English dramatic genius, preparing the way for regular drama

B. They were all written by Shakespeare

C. They were the only literature allowed to be printed

D. They completely destroyed classical literature

Answer: A

Q2. Under what direct influence did English comedy and tragedy pass into forms of art?

A. The Norman Conquest

B. The revival of learning

C. The Industrial Revolution

D. The discovery of America

Answer: B

Q3. From which classical playwrights did the Renaissance men initially take their models for comedy and tragedy?

A. Greek playwrights like Sophocles

B. Latin playwrights (Plautus, Terence, Seneca)

C. Egyptian playwrights

D. Early French playwrights

Answer: B

Q4. What is considered the first real English comedy?

A. Gorboduc

B. Roister Doister

C. Everyman

D. The Four Ps

Answer: B

Q5. Who wrote Roister Doister around 1550?

A. Nicholas Udall, head master of Eton

B. Thomas Sackville

C. John Heywood

D. William Shakespeare

Answer: A

Q6. How is Roister Doister structured?

A. In blank verse without acts

B. In riming couplets, divided into acts and scenes in the Latin style

C. As a continuous prose narrative

D. As a series of unrelated sonnets

Answer: B

Q7. What is considered the first real English tragedy?

A. Hamlet

B. Roister Doister

C. Gorboduc (or Ferrex and Porrex)

D. Everyman

Answer: C

Q8. Gorboduc is an almost pedantic effort to reproduce the forms and spirit of whose tragedy?

A. Plautus's

B. Seneca's

C. Terence's

D. Aristotle's

Answer: B

Q9. Who wrote the first English tragedy, Gorboduc?

A. Nicholas Udall and John Heywood

B. Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton

C. Geoffrey Chaucer and John Gower

D. William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Q10. What is an interesting poetic first regarding Gorboduc?

A. It was the first play to use rhyme royal

B. It was the first of our plays to use blank verse

C. It was the first play written entirely in prose

D. It was the first play to use alliteration

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Page 49 - Table of the Development of the Drama

Q1. According to the table, what was the first recorded dramatic performance in England?

A. Gorboduc

B. Ludus de S. Katherina

C. Roister Doister

D. The Four Ps

Answer: B

Q2. In what year was the Festival of Corpus Christi instituted, giving impulse to miracle plays?

A. 1110

B. 1264

C. 1340

D. 1485

Answer: B

Q3. During whose reign was the Festival of Corpus Christi instituted?

A. Henry I

B. Henry III

C. Edward III

D. Richard III

Answer: B

Q4. When did the York cycle of miracle plays originate?

A. About 1340

B. Middle of the 14th century

C. 15th century

D. 16th century

Answer: A

Q5. When did the Wakefield cycle of miracle plays originate?

A. About 1340

B. Middle of the 14th century

C. Middle of the 15th century

D. Early 16th century

Answer: C

Q6. What is the earliest extant morality play listed in the table?

A. Everyman

B. The Castell of Perseverance

C. Lusty Juventus

D. Roister Doister

Answer: B

Q7. When did interludes begin to appear according to the table?

A. 13th century

B. 14th century

C. Early 16th century

D. Late 16th century

Answer: C

Q8. In what year was Gorboduc written?

A. 1520

B. 1550

C. 1561

D. 1566

Answer: C

Q9. What was the second English comedy, written in 1566 by John Still?

A. Roister Doister

B. Gammer Gurton's Needle

C. The Four Ps

D. Everyman

Answer: B

Q10. Based on the footnote, what is the accepted English term for religious drama, despite continental

distinctions between 'mysteries' and 'miracle plays'?

A. Morality Play

B. Miracle Play

C. Interlude

D. Mystery Play

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Page 50 - The Age of Shakespeare (Part 1)

Q1. What period of time does the 'Shakespearean Age' broadly cover?

A. The entire 15th century

B. From the Norman Conquest to the Black Death

C. From the accession of Elizabeth in 1558 to the death of James I in 1625

D. The reign of Queen Victoria

Answer: C

Q2. The Shakespearean Age is described as falling naturally into how many divisions?

A. Two

B. Three

C. Four

D. Five

Answer: B

Q3. How is the first division (the first 21 years of the Queen's reign) characterized?

A. The time of decline (autumn)

B. The time of preparation, or the springtide of Elizabethan literature

C. The time of full fruition (summer)

D. The dark ages

Answer: B

Q4. How is the second division (between Spenser's Shepheardes Calender and Elizabeth's death) characterized?

A. The time of preparation

B. The time of full fruition, or summer

C. The time of decline

D. The time of religious war

Answer: B

Q5. How is the third division (the 22 years of the reign of James I) characterized?

A. The springtide of literature

B. The time of full fruition

C. Its time of decline, or autumn

D. The rebirth of classical literature

Answer: C

Q6. Strictly speaking, what is the proper designation for the third division of this period?

A. Elizabethan

B. Jacobean

C. Tudor

D. Victorian

Answer: B

Q7. Why is the entire period referred to collectively as the Age of Shakespeare?

A. Because Shakespeare ruled England

B. Because of literary development reasons, including both Elizabethan and Jacobean eras

C. Because no other authors lived during this time

D. Because Shakespeare invented the printing press

Answer: B

Q8. How does this period rank in the annals of the world's literature?

A. As the most barren and unproductive

B. As completely average

C. As one of the greatest, due to its fertility, variety, and splendor

D. As solely focused on scientific achievements

Answer: C

Q9. What happened to the 'average mood' of the nation during this period?

A. It was sluggish and dull

B. It was exceptionally vigorous and alert

C. It was deeply mournful

D. It was entirely apathetic

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Q10. Which authors are mentioned as growing from boyhood into youth during the early years of Elizabeth's reign?

A. Chaucer, Gower, Langland

B. Spenser, Bacon, and Shakespeare

C. Wyatt, Surrey, and Udall

D. Milton, Dryden, and Pope

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Page 51 - The Age of Shakespeare (Part 2)

Q1. How did the revival of learning affect the general public during this era?

A. It remained limited to the scholarly few at universities

B. Innumerable translations carried classic treasures far and wide to a large miscellaneous public

C. It was banned by the Queen

D. Only French literature was translated

Answer: B

Q2. What quote is used to describe the pervasive influence of classical literature in England?

A. 'Every breeze was dusty with the pollen of Greece, Rome, and of Italy'

B. 'The sun never sets on the English empire'

C. 'To be or not to be'

D. 'Knowledge is power'

Answer: A

Q3. While the Renaissance aroused the intellect and aesthetic faculties, what did the Reformation awaken?

A. Military strategy

B. Industrial production

C. The spiritual nature

D. The desire for foreign conquest

Answer: C

Q4. What significant religious text did the printing press put into the hands of the people?

A. The Latin Vulgate

B. The English Bible

C. The Book of Common Prayer

D. The 95 Theses

Answer: B

Q5. What effect did the discovery of new worlds and explorers' tales have on the English mind?

A. It caused intense fear and isolationism

B. It quickened popular curiosity, zest of adventure, and enlarged the boundaries of men's minds

C. It led to an immediate ban on all sailing

D. It made people lose interest in literature

Answer: B

Q6. Which of the following is NOT listed as a daring explorer of the time?

A. Hawkins

B. Drake

C. Columbus

D. Frobisher

Answer: C

Q7. What was the state of the country's internal affairs for the first time in many years?

A. It was engaged in a civil war

B. It enjoyed the blessing of internal peace

C. It was suffering a terrible famine

D. It was constantly changing monarchs

Answer: B

Q8. How did the fierce feuds of Catholic and Protestant change during this period?

A. They intensified into open warfare

B. The feuds were now over, and discordant elements were welded into a united nation

C. The country split into two separate kingdoms

D. Protestantism was outlawed

Answer: B

Q9. What crisis imperiled England's existence but ultimately caused Englishmen to sink minor differences and stand shoulder to shoulder?

A. The Black Death

B. The invasion of the Vikings

C. The collision with Spain (The Spanish Armada)

D. The French Revolution

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 10)

Q10. What became one of the outstanding features of the age as a result of defending against a common foe?

A. Intense patriotism

B. Widespread cowardice

C. A desire to emigrate

D. Religious despair

Answer: A