History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 15)

Page 72 - Note on the Drama

Q1. According to the note on page 72, where can the Table of the Drama of the Age of Shakespeare be found?

A. Pages 1-5

B. Pages 76-8

C. Pages 100-105

D. At the very end of the book

Answer: B

Q2. The Age of Shakespeare is commonly subdivided into how many divisions as mentioned previously?

A. Two

B. Three

C. Four

D. Five

Answer: B

Q3. The first division of the Age of Shakespeare is often called the 'springtide' or what else?

A. The time of decline

B. The time of preparation

C. The time of full fruition

D. The age of prose

Answer: B

Q4. Which term properly applies to the third division of the Age of Shakespeare (the reign of James I)?

A. Elizabethan

B. Jacobean

C. Tudor

D. Caroline

Answer: B

Q5. Which monarch's death marked the end of the Age of Shakespeare in 1625?

A. Queen Elizabeth

B. King James I

C. King Charles I

D. King Henry VIII

Answer: B

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Page 73 - Prose Fiction and Romance

Q1. Did the Age of Shakespeare produce what we specifically call the 'novel' (the long story of contemporary life)?

A. Yes, it was invented by Shakespeare

B. No, this was not established in English literature until more than a century later

C. Yes, Ben Jonson wrote the first one

D. No, novels have never existed in English literature

Answer: B

Q2. What gave a stimulus to the development of prose fiction during this age?

A. The invention of the printing press

B. The work of translators who familiarized the public with Spanish/Italian romances and novelle

C. A royal decree demanding prose

D. The banning of all poetry

Answer: B

Q3. What secondary interest do Italian novelle (short stories) have in English literary history?

A. They were written by the Pope

B. They were the sources upon which Elizabethan dramatists (including Shakespeare) often drew for plots

C. They were used to train soldiers

D. They were the only books allowed in schools

Answer: B

Q4. Name a popular collection of adapted/imitated stories from this era.

A. The Canterbury Tales

B. William Painter's 'Palace of Pleasure'

C. The Faerie Queene

D. The Decameron

Answer: B

Q5. Who wrote the most important prose romance of the period, 'Euphues, the Anatomy of Wit'?

A. William Shakespeare

B. John Lyly

C. Christopher Marlowe

D. Sir Philip Sidney

Answer: B

Q6. In what year was the first part of 'Euphues' published, making it exactly contemporary with Spenser's Shepheardes Calender?

A. 1550

B. 1579

C. 1600

D. 1616

Answer: B

Q7. What is the title of the sequel to 'Euphues' published the following year?

A. Euphues in Paris

B. Euphues and his England

C. The Return of Euphues

D. Euphues' Tragedy

Answer: B

Q8. Where does the young Athenian named Euphues travel to in the first part of the story?

A. London

B. Naples

C. Rome

D. Venice

Answer: B

Q9. Who does Euphues become intimate friends with in Naples?

A. Philautus

B. Romeo

C. Hamlet

D. Othello

Answer: A

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Q10. How is the narrative structure of the first part of 'Euphues' described?

A. Action-packed and violent

B. A sort of love-story, but without action; narrative is an excuse for endless discourses and moralisings

C. A strict historical documentary

D. A collection of short poems

Answer: B

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Page 74 - Euphuism

Q1. In the second part of Euphues, how does the protagonist describe England?

A. As a terrible, savage wasteland

B. So unqualified in its praise that it seems like a paradise with inhabitants embodying all virtues

C. As completely ordinary and boring

D. As constantly at war

Answer: B

Q2. How popular was Euphues?

A. It was a complete failure

B. It was moderately successful only in London

C. Its popularity was extraordinary; it went through ten editions in half a century

D. It was banned immediately upon publication

Answer: C

Q3. How did the ladies of the court use 'Euphues'?

A. As a cookbook

B. As a moral handbook, a guide to polite behavior, and a model of elegance in speech/writing

C. As a manual for sword fighting

D. They refused to read it

Answer: B

Q4. What is Lyly's unique prose style called?

A. Miltonism

B. Euphuism

C. Romanticism

D. Classicism

Answer: B

Q5. Euphuism was an attempt to do what to the vernacular tongue?

A. Make it simpler and more concise

B. Lift and refine it through extreme elaboration and artifice

C. Replace it entirely with Latin

D. Eliminate all adjectives

Answer: B

Q6. What is perhaps the outstanding feature of Euphuism?

A. The complete lack of punctuation

B. The excessive use of balanced antithesis

C. The use of strict rhyming couplets in prose

D. Constant swearing

Answer: B

Q7. Give an example of balanced antithesis used in the text.

A. 'To be or not to be'

B. 'As you may suspect me of idleness... so you may convince me of lightness...'

C. 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'

D. 'All the world's a stage'

Answer: B

Q8. With what other rhetorical device is balanced antithesis frequently combined in Lyly's style?

A. Alliteration (e.g., 'shrined thee in my heart as a trusty friend... shun thee as a trothless foe')

B. Onomatopoeia

C. Irony

D. Understatement

Answer: A

Q9. What does Lyly indulge freely in besides antithesis and alliteration?

A. Similes, word-play, and punning

B. Mathematical equations

C. Historical citations

D. Blank verse

Answer: A

Q10. What is Lyly's fondness for 'non-natural natural history'?

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A. Writing about real, scientifically proven animals

B. Writing natural history based not on science, but on myth and fable (e.g., gems inside dragons)

C. Refusing to mention nature at all

D. Writing only about plants, never animals

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 15)

Page 75 - Sidney, Lodge, Greene, and Nash

Q1. What famous Shakespearean quote is an example of the same fantastic pseudo-science found in Euphuism?

A. 'A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!'

B. Describing the toad as 'ugly and venomous' but wearing 'a precious jewel in his head'

C. 'Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?'

D. 'Beware the Ides of March'

Answer: B

Q2. What is considered the second most important Elizabethan prose romance?

A. Utopia

B. Sir Philip Sidney's 'Arcadia'

C. The Faerie Queene

D. Robinson Crusoe

Answer: B

Q3. How does the plot of 'Arcadia' compare to 'Euphues'?

A. It also has practically no story

B. Unlike Euphues, it is full of incident and complication (episodes within episodes)

C. It is much shorter and simpler

D. It is entirely a true historical account

Answer: B

Q4. What makes Sidney's prose style in 'Arcadia' wearisome in the long run?

A. It is too simple and childish

B. Its total want of simplicity and restraint (it is extremely ornate and poetical)

C. It uses too much scientific jargon

D. It is written completely without vowels

Answer: B

Q5. Which two 'University Wits' have importance as writers of romance with styles fashioned upon Lyly?

A. Marlowe and Kyd

B. Lodge and Greene

C. Nash and Jonson

D. Beaumont and Fletcher

Answer: B

Q6. Why are Lodge's 'Rosalynde' and Greene's 'Pandosto' still of interest today?

A. They are the greatest novels ever written

B. Because of their connection with Shakespeare (they furnished raw materials for As You Like It and The Winter's Tale)

C. Because they were banned by the Queen

D. They were the first books ever printed in English

Answer: B

Q7. Thomas Nash gave a distinct lead in the direction of what style of fiction?

A. High romance

B. Realism of a coarse description

C. Pastoral poetry

D. Religious allegory

Answer: B

Q8. What is the title of Thomas Nash's rambling record of adventure on the continent?

A. The Unfortunate Traveller, or The Life of Jack Wilton

B. The Pilgrim's Progress

C. Gulliver's Travels

D. Don Quixote

Answer: A

Q9. 'The Unfortunate Traveller' is our earliest English example of what type of novel?

A. The gothic novel

B. The picaresque novel (or novel of rascality)

C. The epistolary novel

D. The historical novel

Answer: B

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Q10. In what country was the picaresque novel already popular before Nash?

A. France

B. Germany

C. Spain

D. Italy

Answer: C

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 15)

Page 76 - Francis Bacon (Part 1)

Q1. Was the English literature of the Age of Shakespeare entirely a literature of the imagination?

A. Yes, completely

B. No, the Renaissance stimulated intellectual prose works as well

C. No, imagination was outlawed

D. Yes, science did not exist yet

Answer: B

Q2. Who is considered the principal prose master of his time?

A. William Shakespeare

B. John Lyly

C. Francis Bacon

D. Thomas Nash

Answer: C

Q3. What did the Queen jestingly call Francis Bacon when he was a boy due to his precocity?

A. Her 'little philosopher'

B. Her 'young lord keeper'

C. Her 'master of prose'

D. Her 'court jester'

Answer: B

Q4. What profession did Bacon choose when his father's death threw him upon his own resources?

A. The priesthood

B. The military

C. The law

D. Medicine

Answer: C

Q5. Under which monarch did Bacon rise rapidly in favor and fortune?

A. Queen Elizabeth

B. King James I

C. King Charles I

D. King Henry VIII

Answer: B

Q6. What high office did Bacon eventually achieve in 1618?

A. Archbishop of Canterbury

B. Lord Chancellor

C. Prime Minister

D. King of Scotland

Answer: B

Q7. What caused the sudden crash in Bacon's career?

A. He lost a war

B. He was impeached before the House of Lords on charges of official malpractice

C. He wrote a treasonous play

D. He assassinated a rival

Answer: B

Q8. What was Bacon's sentence upon impeachment?

A. A fine of £40,000, imprisonment, and banishment (though ultimately pardoned)

B. Execution by beheading

C. Exile to America

D. He was forced to become a monk

Answer: A

Q9. How did Francis Bacon die in 1626?

A. From the plague

B. In battle

C. From complications arising from a cold caught while making a scientific experiment

D. He was poisoned at court

Answer: C

Q10. How did Bacon view his own life's purpose?

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A. Born purely to acquire wealth

B. Born for the service of mankind, to devote his powers to its advancement

C. Born to write the greatest plays in history

D. Born to destroy the monarchy

Answer: B