History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Page 92 - Robert Herrick and the Cavalier Poets

Q1. Under what title was Robert Herrick's religious poetry published?

A. Hesperides

B. Noble Numbers

C. The Temple

D. Religious Emblems

Answer: B

Q2. Under what title was Robert Herrick's secular poetry published?

A. Hesperides

B. Noble Numbers

C. The Alchemist

D. Amoretti

Answer: A

Q3. What is a singular historical feature of Herrick's delightful, spontaneous secular poetry?

A. It was entirely written in Latin

B. Its complete detachment from the political interests of the hour (aloof from the tumult)

C. It heavily criticized the King

D. It was the only poetry allowed by the Puritans

Answer: B

Q4. What is the name of the group of Caroline poets whose inspiration was entirely or almost entirely secular?

A. The Puritan Poets

B. The Metaphysical Poets

C. The 'Cavalier' group

D. The University Wits

Answer: C

Q5. Which three principal names belong to the Cavalier group?

A. Milton, Donne, Jonson

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B. Carew, Suckling, Lovelace

C. Herbert, Crashaw, Vaughan

D. Marlowe, Kyd, Lyly

Answer: B

Q6. How did the Cavalier poets treat their art?

A. They took it extremely seriously

B. They wrote in a lighter vein and made no pretence at treating their art seriously

C. They only wrote religious epics

D. They refused to publish their work

Answer: B

Q7. Who wrote 'To Althea from Prison'?

A. Thomas Carew

B. Sir John Suckling

C. Richard Lovelace

D. Andrew Marvell

Answer: C

Q8. Why is Andrew Marvell joined with the Cavalier poets despite his later political stances?

A. He was the King's brother

B. His earlier work exhibits many of the characteristics of the Cavalier school

C. He only wrote love poems

D. He never wrote about politics

Answer: B

Q9. Who is the most widely known of the Caroline poets who found their main interest in religion, author of 'The Temple'?

A. Richard Crashaw

B. Henry Vaughan

C. George Herbert

D. Francis Quarles

Answer: C

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Q10. Whose sacred verse, though unequal and ruined by conceits at times, has far greater fire and passion than Herbert's?

A. Francis Quarles

B. Richard Crashaw

C. Henry Vaughan

D. Robert Herrick

Answer: B

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Page 93 - The Metaphysical Poets

Q1. Who is usually regarded as the chief representative of the 'metaphysical' school of poetry?

A. Abraham Cowley

B. John Milton

C. George Herbert

D. Thomas Carew

Answer: A

Q2. Which later critic first applied the name 'metaphysical' to this school of poetry?

A. Matthew Arnold

B. Samuel Johnson

C. Charles Lamb

D. John Dryden

Answer: B

Q3. According to Johnson, what was the whole endeavor of the metaphysical poets?

A. To write beautiful music

B. To copy nature and life

C. To show their learning

D. To inspire religious devotion

Answer: C

Q4. How does Johnson describe the thoughts of the metaphysical poets?

A. Obvious and just

B. Often new, but seldom natural; neither obvious nor just

C. Completely plagiarized from the Greeks

D. Entirely focused on politics

Answer: B

Q5. Which of the following is NOT a salient feature of the metaphysical group of writers?

A. Work packed with affectations and conceits

B. Clear, simple, and emotionally natural language

C. Strained metaphors and extravagant hyperbole

D. Substitution of philosophical subtleties for natural expression of feeling

Answer: B

Q6. As a result of their effort to surprise by novelty and ingenuity at any cost, how is their work generally described?

A. Smooth, calm, and soothing

B. Violent, harsh, cold, and obscure

C. Hilariously funny

D. Incredibly brief

Answer: B

Q7. Does the author believe the metaphysical poets completely lacked genius?

A. Yes, they had no talent at all

B. No, they occasionally give passages or poems of real power and beauty despite their vicious theories

C. Yes, they were just pretending to be poets

D. No, they are considered greater than Shakespeare

Answer: B

Q8. What frantic absurdity does the text use as an example from Crashaw regarding Mary Magdalene's eyes?

A. He called them 'stars of the night'

B. He called them 'two walking baths, two weeping motions, portable and compendious oceans'

C. He called them 'mirrors of the soul'

D. He called them 'black holes'

Answer: B

Q9. Why did English poetry go astray during this time, according to Johnson?

A. By voluntary deviation from nature in pursuit of something new and strange

B. Because of the Puritan ban on theaters

C. Because no one knew how to read

D. Because they were copying French styles exclusively

Answer: A

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Q10. Who produced the last important works of the metaphysical school, later discarding much of the extravagance?

A. Richard Crashaw

B. Abraham Cowley

C. Thomas Traherne

D. George Herbert

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Page 94 - Traherne and Caroline Prose (Part 1)

Q1. Which slightly younger writer's manuscripts were lost to sight for nearly two hundred years after his death?

A. Thomas Traherne

B. Abraham Cowley

C. Jeremy Taylor

D. Izaak Walton

Answer: A

Q2. When were Thomas Traherne's 'Poems' finally published?

A. 1704

B. 1850

C. 1903

D. 2000

Answer: C

Q3. Besides being a great religious/metaphysical poet, what did Traherne's 'Centuries of Meditations' (1908) show?

A. That he was a great playwright

B. That he was a great prose writer also

C. That he was a scientist

D. That he was actually a woman

Answer: B

Q4. Which eloquent divine wrote the acknowledged religious prose classics 'Holy Living' and 'Holy Dying'?

A. Richard Baxter

B. Thomas Fuller

C. Jeremy Taylor

D. Sir Thomas Browne

Answer: C

Q5. Which Puritan wrote the classic 'The Saints' Everlasting Rest'?

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A. Richard Baxter

B. Jeremy Taylor

C. John Milton

D. Francis Bacon

Answer: A

Q6. Which quaint, witty, and vivacious divine is best remembered today for his delightful miscellaneous 'Worthies of England'?

A. Jeremy Taylor

B. Thomas Fuller

C. Thomas Hobbes

D. Edward Hyde

Answer: B

Q7. What was the profession of Sir Thomas Browne, author of books full of varied and curious erudition?

A. A physician

B. A lawyer

C. A priest

D. An actor

Answer: A

Q8. What is Sir Thomas Browne's main title to fame (his personal confession of religious faith)?

A. The Saints' Everlasting Rest

B. Religio Medici

C. The Compleat Angler

D. Leviathan

Answer: B

Q9. Who wrote 'The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation'?

A. Sir Thomas Browne

B. Izaak Walton

C. Thomas Fuller

D. Richard Baxter

Answer: B

Q10. Why has 'The Compleat Angler' been popular with countless readers who care nothing for fishing?

A. Because of its complex political allegory

B. On account of its pleasant gossipy style and genuine rustic flavour

C. Because it is a violent tragedy

D. Because it contains hidden scientific formulas

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Page 95 - Caroline Prose (Part 2) & History

Q1. Who occupies the first place in history writing of this period with his 'History of the Great Rebellion'?

A. Thomas Hobbes

B. Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon

C. Izaak Walton

D. Richard Baxter

Answer: B

Q2. Why is Clarendon's 'History of the Great Rebellion' considered untrustworthy?

A. He made everything up

B. By reason of its royalist bias

C. Because he was a strict Puritan

D. Because it was written 200 years later

Answer: B

Q3. Despite its bias, why is Clarendon's history justly admired?

A. For its comedic value

B. For its stately diction and its skilful studies of character

C. Because it is extremely short

D. Because it is written in blank verse

Answer: B

Q4. Who wrote 'Leviathan', the most important political treatise inspired by the unrest of the time?

A. John Milton

B. Thomas Hobbes

C. Francis Bacon

D. Edward Hyde

Answer: B

Q5. What does Thomas Hobbes advocate for in 'Leviathan'?

A. Absolute anarchy

B. Strong central government

C. A pure democracy

D. The abolition of all government

Answer: B

Q6. Speaking generally of the prose writers of this time (including Milton), what is true of their style?

A. It is exactly like modern conversational English

B. We nowhere recognize in their style the characteristic tone and manner of our modern prose

C. They all wrote entirely in rhymed couplets

D. They refused to use punctuation

Answer: B

Q7. Which author's charming Essays have a great deal in common with the simpler and clearer way of writing that the Age of Dryden would soon introduce?

A. Abraham Cowley

B. John Milton

C. Jeremy Taylor

D. Thomas Hobbes

Answer: A

Q8. Where can the Table of the Literature of the Age of Milton be found in the book?

A. Pages 1-5

B. Pages 109-111

C. Pages 76-78

D. It is not in the book

Answer: B

Q9. According to the footnote, what is the origin of the term 'Caroline'?

A. It comes from the French word for poetry

B. From 'Carolus', Latin for Charles

C. From Queen Caroline

D. It means 'musical'

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Q10. Which era was about to introduce a simpler and clearer way of prose writing?

A. The Age of Shakespeare

B. The Age of Dryden

C. The Age of Chaucer

D. The Victorian Era

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Page 96 - The Age of Dryden

Q1. What period does 'The Age of Dryden' cover?

A. 1558-1603

B. 1603-1625

C. 1625-1660

D. 1660-1700

Answer: D

Q2. What event brought an immense change in the general temper of the English people, starting this new age?

A. The defeat of the Spanish Armada

B. The Stuart Restoration

C. The signing of the Magna Carta

D. The Black Death

Answer: B

Q3. The Stuart Restoration was followed by a sweeping reaction against what?

A. The monarchy

B. Puritanism and everything it had stood for

C. Classicism

D. The French

Answer: B

Q4. Because of this reaction, what was too often cast aside along with religious fanaticism?

A. Art and literature

B. Moderation and decency

C. Education and science

D. The English language

Answer: B

Q5. How does the author describe the court of Charles II?

A. The most pious and devout in history

B. The most shameless this country has ever known

C. A center of strict Puritanical law

D. A perfect democracy

Answer: B

Q6. What became fashionable during the Age of Dryden?

A. Strict moral virtue

B. Infidelity and profligacy

C. Going to church daily

D. Refusing to wear jewelry

Answer: B

Q7. What happened to the moral ideals of Puritanism during this time?

A. They were strictly enforced by law

B. They were turned into jest, and those who upheld them were laughed at as hypocrites

C. Everyone adopted them secretly

D. They were completely forgotten without mention

Answer: B

Q8. Did this spirit of corruption remain only within the narrow circle of court and aristocracy?

A. Yes, the rest of the country was unaffected

B. No, the spirit of corruption spread far and wide, lowering the moral tone everywhere

C. No, it only affected the poor

D. Yes, the King kept it contained

Answer: B

Q9. What great principle of interpretation does this era perfectly illustrate?

A. That literature has nothing to do with history

B. That literature is a social product and inevitably reflects the life of the era out of which it springs

C. That poetry is only written by good people

D. That monarchs always write the best books

Answer: B

History of English Literature - Important MCQs (Part 19)

Q10. Based on these social conditions, what can be anticipated about the literature of the Age of Dryden?

A. It will be incredibly pure and religious

B. It will reflect the corruption, profligacy, and reaction against Puritanism of the time

C. It will focus only on nature

D. It will ignore society entirely

Answer: B