

**Questions Bank
BA 2
Semester IV
English Literature**

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Poetry

1. Sonnet

#Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. In this poem, the poet is reminded about
 - a) her life in the city
 - b) her lover
 - c) the artificiality of violets
 - d) the natural world

2. What does the poet associate violets with in the first four lines!
 - a)romance
 - b)religion
 - c) city life
 - d)summer

- 3.The poet associates violets with— — — —
 - a) fields, streams, and spiritual thoughts
 - b) summer, passion, longing, and romance
 - c) fashion, perfumes, food, and entertainment
 - d) florists, papers, lights, and sweets

4. What had the poet forgotten?
 - a) city life
 - b) her lover
 - c) wild violets
 - d) her soul

5. Who makes the poet think about violets in the wild?
 - a) a reader
 - b) a suitor
 - c) florist
 - d) no one

6. Which of the following adjectives are not used to describe violets?
 - a) shy
 - b) wild

- c) sweet
- d) garish

#Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. What does the poet say in the first four lines?
2. With what does the poet associate violets in her present day-to-day life?
3. What occasion, do you think, prompts the poem? Justify your answer.
4. What do you think is the meaning of the phrase 'Heaven-mounting dreams? What does it have to do with violets?
5. What do you think the gotten gleam'? poet means by the phrase 'soul's for.

Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. How does the poet use the sonnet form to put across her ideas? (Or, track the of this movement of ideas across the structure poem.)
3. Comment on the last two lines of the in with the rest of the poem. How do they tie poem?

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## **2. A Noiseless Patient Spider**

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. Which of the following is a theme in this poem?
  - a) mankind versus nature
  - b) overcoming all odds
  - c) the alienation of modern life
  - d) the quest for meaning
2. Why does the poet talk about a spider in this poem?
  - a) to convey his spiritual philosophy in simple terms
  - b) to explain an abstract idea in concrete terms
  - c) to justify his fascination for spiders in poetic language
  - d) to analyse a natural phenomenon in free verse
3. Which of this the following rhetorical devices do you not find in poem?
  - a) alliteration
  - b) apostrophe
  - c) personification
  - d) simile
4. Which of the following words/phrases from the poem does not contribute to the theme of the soul's isolation?

- a) seeking the spheres
- b) measureless oceans of space
- c) vacant vast surrounding
- d) detached

5. Which of the following qualities can you attribute to the spider?

- a) pride
- b) perseverance
- c) passivity
- d) prudence

6. The poem ends on a note of ...

- a) despair
- b) indifference
- c) optimism
- d) excitement

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. Describe the spider and its actions.
2. What point is conveyed by the repetitions in the poem?
3. How is the human soul like the spider?
4. Who is the second stanza addressed to? How does this convey the poet's preoccupations?
5. What are the themes of this poem?
6. Explain the following lines with reference to context: 'And you O my Soul where you stand, / Surrounded, detached, in measureless oceans of space.'

**#Answer the following questions in 150-200 words. and build**

1. "The poem is about the human need to connect bridges. Do you agree with this statement Support your answer with evidence from the poem.
2. Examine in detail the central metaphor of the poem. Do you find Whitman's metaphor appropriate and effective'

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3. Brahma

Answer the following questions by choosing one of the options.

1. Who is the speaker of the poem?
 - a) Emerson
 - b) Brahma
 - c) a Brahmin
 - d) the universe

2. What colour is associated with death in the poem?

- a) red
- b) white
- c) grey
- d) black

3. Which of the following figures of speech may be found in the following line: 'Shadow and sunlight are the same'?

- a) metaphor and paradox
- b) alliteration and simile
- c) metaphor and simile
- d) alliteration and paradox

4. Why are 'shame' and 'fame' the same?

- a) because both are necessary to grasp the Brahman
- b) because their essences are unified in Brahma
- c) because neither is experienced by the Brahman
- d) because Brahma can turn one into the other

5. What is the dominant metre of this poem?

- a) iambic tetrameter
- b) iambic pentameter
- c) trochaic tetrameter
- d) trochaic pentameter

6. Who does the speaker address in the last two lines of the poem?

- a) Brahma
- b) the warrior
- c) the reader
- d) the poet

Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. What does this poem tell us about the poet and his interests?
2. Explain, with reference to context, the first two lines of the poem.
3. Do you believe that this poem can be understood without an introduction to Hindu philosophy? Justify your answer.
4. Which lines show the all-pervading nature of Brahma?
5. Distill the philosophy behind the poem in less than five sentences.
6. What advice is given in the last two lines of the poem? Paraphrase in your own words.

Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. Examine all the images in the poem, and explain how they elaborate on the theme of the poem.
2. What is the message of the poem? How is this message conveyed by the poet?

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## 4. Art

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. Who is the speaker of the poem?

- a) the poet
- b) common man
- c) Jacob
- d) Art

2. When is it easy to make plans?

- a) when there is no conflict
- b) when there is conflict
- c) when it is night
- d) when we are asleep

3. What does the speaker mean by pulsed life?

- a) babies
- b) anything that is alive
- c) anything creative
- d) death

4. Which of the following elements does the poet not refer to in the poem?

- a) fire
- b) wind
- c) water
- d) pride

5. Who is the angel the poet refers to?

- a) death
- b) art
- c) life
- d) the heart

6. Who does the speaker address in the poem?

- a) the reader
- b) the poet
- c) the angel
- d) art

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What is the theme of the poem?

2. What is the role of pride in the poem?

3. What figures of speech does he use in the

4. What is the form of the poem? How does it contribute to the theme of the poem?

5. Explain the line What unlike things must meet and mate
6. What is the reference to important Jacob that the poet makes? Why is it significant?

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Examine all the images in the elaborate on the theme of the poem. explain how they contribute?
2. What, in your opinion, is the message of the poem? What is the point that the poet is trying to make?

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## 5. The Lonely House

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. Why are these old houses inviting?
  - a) because they are easy to rob
  - b) because they are lovely to stay in
  - c) because their inhabitants are very welcoming
  - d) they are actually not inviting
2. Who is not easy to surprise?
  - a) old people
  - b) old houses
  - c) old eyes
  - d) robbers
3. How is the kitchen described?
  - a) attractive
  - b) dirty
  - c) neat
  - d) smelly
4. Who slides down the stair?
  - a) the old man
  - b) the moon
  - c) the old woman
  - d) the robbers
5. Which of the following is not a treasure referred to in the poem?
  - a) tankard
  - b) spoon
  - c) earring
  - d) plate

6. Who crows out in the morning?

- a) the old woman
- b) the rooster
- c) the robbers
- d) the sun

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. How is the kitchen described?
3. What figures of speech does the poet use in the poem?
4. What is the form the poem? How does it contribute to the theme of the poem?
5. Explain the line "And echoes, trains away, / Sneer T"Where?"
6. What happens at the end of the poem?

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Examine all the images in the poem and explain how they elaborate on the theme of the poem.
2. Paraphrase the poem in your own words and describe the whole situation.

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Literary Theories

1. Post Colonialism

Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. One of the features of colonial literature was
 - a) self-loathing expressed by the colonisers.
 - b) empathy with the experience of the colonised.
 - c) condescension towards the colonised.
 - d) deep appreciation of the colonised.
2. Postcolonial writing attempts to
 - a) hold up the models of colonial writing.
 - b) emphasise the issues colonial writing espouses.
 - c) provide a counterpoint to inherent issues in colonial writing.
 - d) reinforce race relations between the coloniser and the colonised.
3. Postcolonial literature is also known as

- a) New World Literature.
- b) Commonwealth Literature.
- c) Alt Colonial Literature.
- d) Third Reich Literature.

4. Some of the newer concerns in postcolonial literature relate to.....

- a) globalisation.
- b) migration.
- c) multiculturalism.
- d) all of the above

Answer the following questions in 300 words.

1. What is the link between colonialism as an economic activity and post-colonialism as a literary theory? Explain with examples.
2. What are some of the debates surrounding the term "post-colonialism"?
3. Discuss the link between translations and postcolonial writing.

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## 2. Post Structuralism

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. According to Saussure a signifier gains its meaning
  - a) positively through a direct relationship.
  - b) negatively through its indirect relationship with other signifiers.
  - c) through an organic relationship with the signified.
  - d) none of the above
2. Which of the following names is not associated with post- structuralism?
  - a) Julia Kristeva
  - b) Roland Barthes
  - c) Jacques Derrida
  - d) Claude Levi Strauss
3. Among the following, poststructuralism applied to the study of literature is known as
  - a) New Criticism.
  - b) Marxist Criticism.
  - c) Deconstruction.
  - d) Archetypal Criticism.
4. Poststructuralism oneself because believes that it is impossible to fully express
  - a) of the intricacies
  - b) of the human mind. language is too rigid.
  - c) language is inherently unstable and cannot be trusted.
  - d) language is not developed enough to express psychological complexities.

**# Answer the following questions in 300 words.**

1. Poststructuralism takes Saussure's definition of the sign to its logical conclusion and thereby destroys the foundation of structuralism. Do you agree?
2. Write a brief note on Derrida's views on the impact of post- structuralism on the study of literature.

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3. Feminism

Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. Feminism took the shape of a concerted political movement in the
 - a) fifteenth century.
 - b) eighteenth century.
 - c) nineteenth century.
 - d) twentieth century.
2. As a result of the Second World War
 - a) women were forced to keep house for the men.
 - b) women joined the workforce to assist the war effort.
 - c) men supported the fight for women's rights.
 - d) men resisted feminist demands for equality.
3. Radical feminists believed that
 - a) oppression was a result of capitalist practices.
 - b) a complete overhaul of the social, ideology was needed.
 - c) political and personal voting rights would improve the condition and of women.
 - d) feminism was doomed to fail if men did not join the fight.
4. Postmodern feminism
 - a) questions the progress made by first wave feminists.
 - b) believes there are psychosexual implications of masculine and feminine paradigms.
 - c) believes that in a inevitable. deeply classist society, patriarchy is
 - d) challenges the binaries used in defining gender.

Answer the following questions in 300 words.

1. What are the rise different theoretical frameworks used to catego- feminism?
2. The feminist movement evolved over time. Describe the features of the different "waves' of feminist movement.

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## 4. Psychoanalytic Theory and Criticism

# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. The foundation of psychoanalytic theory today is
  - a) the work of Jung.
  - b) Oedipal complex.
  - c) dreams and the unconscious.
  - d) structuralism and formalism.
2. Some of the important areas of Freud's work relate to
  - a) interpretation of dreams, and the ego theory.
  - b) structuralism and dreams.
  - c) fantasy and the unconscious.
  - d) hysteria and catharsis.
3. One of the important aspects of psychoanalytic theory is that
  - a) it is not relevant to real life.
  - b) it only applies to dreams.
  - c) it fully applies to real experiences.
  - d) none of the above
4. Psychoanalytic theory can be applied to....
  - a) Literature
  - b) visual media.
  - c) cultural production.
  - d) all of the above.

# Answer the following questions in 300 words.

1. How did Freud's early experiences as a his later work as a thinker? psychoanalyst shape
2. Explain Freud's ego theory and trace the influence it had on psychoanalytic theory.

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Essays

1. Walking Tours

Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. Why is it better to walk alone?
 - a) because there is no noise
 - b) because the mind quietens down
 - c) because other people have more fun
 - d) because it feels like a picnic

2. Why does the author like bivouacs?

- a) he does not like them
- b) because they give you an opportunity to become one with nature
- c) because you can rest your feet
- d) because that's where you can actually stop and eat some food

3. When does the best time occur on a walking tour?

- a) in the morning
- b) at night
- c) when you stop for a meal
- d) when you reach your destination

4. Which writer does the author admire most for their opinions on walking tours?

- a) William Shakespeare
- b) William Blake
- c) William Hazlitt
- d) William James

5. What does the author object most to?

- a) the profusion of time keeping devices
- b) the lack of good backpack
- c) the inability to relax
- d) the need to constantly eat

6. How does he characterise a walking tour with more than one person?

- a) a picnic
- b) an outing
- c) a joyride
- d) a necessity

Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. Why does the author recommend walking tours alone?
2. How does he describe the over walker'?
3. What happens on the first two days of a walking tour?
4. What happens to the mind on a walking tour?
5. Why does he not agree with Hazlitt's opinions of walking tours?
6. What happens at the end of a day of walking?

Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. The author talks about time in various contexts in the essay. How does he treat time? What is his opinion on the modern day rush to keep doing things and not having enough time?
2. Do you agree with the author's views on happy thinking? Give reasons for your answer and use examples from the text to support your answer.

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## 2. The Worship of the Wealthy

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. How were wealthy people flattered in earlier times?
  - a) by praising them extravagantly
  - b) by using hyperbole
  - c) by being servile towards them
  - d) they were not flattered
2. What was the element of safety in the earlier method of flattery?
  - a) It was too overblown to be believed.
  - b) It was very well done.
  - c) It was never employed.
  - d) It was only employed for royalty.
3. Whose funeral does the author mock?
  - a) Pierpont Morgan
  - b) Beit
  - c) Churchill
  - d) Chesterton
4. What will the overuse of words such as 'quiet' and 'modest' result in?
  - a) the rise of hypocrisy
  - b) it will die away
  - c) become meaningless
  - d) nothing
5. Which of the old following adjectives cannot be applied to the style of flattery?
  - a) hyperbolic
  - b) sincere
  - c) honest
  - d) hypocritical
6. Who is the recipient of Chesterton's ire in the essay?
  - a) politicians
  - b) businessmen
  - c) journalists
  - d) writers

**# Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.**

1. Why does the author say that the style of modern flatterers is dangerous?
2. How does the author conclude the essay?
3. What does this essay reveal about Chesterton as a person?
4. How do flattering journalists use negatives to flatter the objects of their flattery? Explain with the help of an example.

5. What purpose does the reference to the charwoman serve in the essay? Explain.
6. Comment on Chesterton's prose style, as revealed in this essay.

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Chesterton discusses three different ways employed by modern journalists to flatter the wealthy. Describe the methods in detail, citing examples from the text.
2. Do you think this essay is applicable in the Indian context as well? Substantiate your answer with examples from recent news reports.

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3. Of Revenge

Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.

1. What does Bacon call revenge?
 - a) lawful
 - b) wild justice
 - c) effective
 - d) a sin
2. When is man equal to his enemy?
 - a) when he takes no revenge
 - b) when he takes revenge
 - c) when he prays for peace
 - d) when he forgives his enemy
3. One should not be angry with someone who does a wrong because
 - a) we are all self serving the other cheek is a sign of being a good Christian
 - b) to turn
 - c) we all make mistakes
 - d) no one is above the law
4. What is the most tolerable form of revenge?
 - a) where there is no law to make amends
 - b) when there is murder
 - c) there is no such thing
 - d) when we are physically injured
5. When is revenge generous?
 - a) when the other party knows who is targeting
 - b) when it does not happen at all
 - c) revenge is never generous
 - d) when it is hypocritical
6. To whom does Bacon compare vindictive people?

- a) politicians
- b) witches
- c) royalty
- d) writers

Answer the following questions in 3-4 sentences.

1. Why does the author that revenge is dangerous? say about revenge?
2. What does Solomon have to say
3. How does he characterise a generous revenge?
4. How does ill nature and revenge go together?
5. What does the author have to say about the difference between public and private revenge?
6. Explain the line 'as they are mischievous, SO end they infortunate.

Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.

1. Comment on the style of writing in the essay. How does it contribute to its overall effectiveness?
2. What is he Bacon's opinion on revenge? What put forward to support his stand? arguments does

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### 4. On the Feeling of Immortality of Youth

**# Answer the following questions by choosing one of the given options.**

1. What does the author feel upon reading Sir Walter Scott?

- a) rage
- b) awe
- c) happiness
- d) bliss

2. When does the freshness of

- a) when we grow old youth fade away?
- b) when we become disillusioned
- c) when we cannot men sant
- d) when we fall ill move

**# Answer the following questions in 150-200 words.**

1. Comment on the relationship between time and our thought processes as seen in this essay. Do you agree with the author's view point?
2. Do you think this essay is applicable to us today? How would you connect this essay with your own lives?

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