

B.A SEM-4 ENGLISH Question for the assignments

D.S.C 108 Literary Criticism:

1. Why did Plato believe that poets should not be part of his perfect city? Explain his idea that art is just a "copy of a copy" and why he thought poetry makes people too emotional.
2. What are the main features of a great Tragedy according to Aristotle? Talk about the importance of the Plot and how watching a sad play can actually help "cleanse" our emotions (Catharsis).
3. What are the "rules" for writing good literature according to Horace? Explain his belief that literature should both teach the reader a lesson and entertain them at the same time.
4. What makes a piece of writing truly "Grand" or "Sublime" according to Longinus? How does great literature move our souls and make us feel powerful emotions?
5. Why did Sir Philip Sidney feel the need to defend poetry? Explain his argument that poetry is better than History and Philosophy because it makes people want to be virtuous (good).
6. How did Dryden defend English playwrights like Shakespeare? Explain why he thought English plays were better than French plays, even if they didn't follow all the strict rules.
7. Why did Wordsworth want poets to use the language of "common men"? Explain his idea that poetry is born from "powerful feelings" remembered in a quiet moment.
8. What is the difference between "Imagination" and "Fancy" according to Coleridge? How does the poet's mind create something brand new instead of just copying the world?
9. According to Matthew Arnold, what is the duty of a critic? Why is it important for a critic to be "disinterested" (fair and unbiased) when looking at a piece of literature?

D.S.C: 109 English language.

1. What are the "General Characteristics" that make English a unique language? Discuss how its flexibility and willingness to borrow words from other cultures helped it become a world language.
2. Identify three major "Landmarks" or historical events that changed the English language. How did these events help English spread across different continents?
3. What is the "Indo-European Family of Languages"? Explain how English is related to other languages like Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin within this large family tree.
4. Why did the French language have such a massive impact on English after the year 1066? List some common areas (like law, food, or fashion) where we still use French-derived words today.
5. How is American English different from British English? Discuss the "American Influence" on the global stage, especially in terms of spelling and new modern vocabulary.
6. How did the invention of the printing press help in making English spelling the same for everyone? Why was this a turning point for the language?
7. In simple terms, explain what happened to English pronunciation during the "Great Vowel Shift." How did the way people say their vowels change between the time of Chaucer and Shakespeare?
8. How did the development of dictionaries, like the one by Samuel Johnson, help "fix" or stabilize the English language? Why do we need dictionaries to keep a language organized?
9. Why is Shakespeare considered the most influential individual in the history of the English language? How does his work continue to affect the way we speak in the 21st century?

D.S.C 110 History of English literature:

1. What is "Satire"? Using Jonathan Swift as an example, explain how he used wit and humour to criticize the social and political problems of his time.
2. Discuss the contribution of Joseph Addison and Sir Richard Steele to the English Essay. How did their periodical, *The Spectator*, help in improving the manners and morals of the middle class?
3. Explain Samuel Richardson's contribution to the early English novel. How did his "Epistolary" style (writing a story through letters) help readers understand the feelings of his characters?
4. Percy Bysshe Shelley is known for his revolutionary ideas. Discuss his passion for liberty and how his poetry expresses a hope for a better, more free world.
5. Jane Austen wrote about the domestic lives of the English middle class. Discuss her skill in portraying human character and her use of irony in her novels.
6. *Wuthering Heights* is a unique novel in English literature. Discuss the intense relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine. Why is the setting of the "Moors" important to the story?
7. Explain the "Gothic" or mysterious atmosphere found in *Wuthering Heights*. How does the novel explore themes of revenge and eternal love?
8. In his play *The Rivals*, how does Sheridan make fun of the social pretensions of his time? Discuss the character of Mrs. Malaprop and her funny way of using words.
9. Analyse the humorous situations in *The Rivals*. How does Sheridan create a "Sentimental Comedy" that is both funny and morally engaging for the audience?

Dear Students,

Please read the following instructions carefully regarding the internal evaluation for this paper:

1. I have prepared **9 questions** for this paper.
2. **Each student must choose any 3 questions** out of these 9 and prepare them properly in written form.
3. From the 3 prepared questions, **you will have to present any 1 question** during the presentation session.
4. The presentation will be **oral** (reading/explaining your answer in front of the class).
5. After your presentation, **2–3 questions** may be asked by the teacher or classmates based on your topic.
6. **Presentation is compulsory.**
 - If a student **does not present, presentation marks will NOT be given**, even if the written work is prepared.
7. **Regular attendance** in class and presence on the presentation day are mandatory for internal marks.

Internal marks will be based on:

- Attendance
- Quality of written answers
- Oral presentation
- Answers given during discussion

Please prepare sincerely and be confident while presenting.

Best regards,

Professor Sarjugiri B. Gauswami