

Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya
Department of English
BA Part III
Question Bank

Paper I: Poetry and Drama

Short Answer Questions:

1. What does Ulysses gain from his travels?
2. How would Telemachus transform the subjects?
3. In what ways are Ulysses and his mariners alike?
4. What does the term 'Little Remains' convey?
5. Though made weak by time and fate, the hearts are heroic. Explain.
6. What is a dramatic monologue?
7. What about the duchess bothered the duke?
8. What does the phrase "all smiles stopped" mean?
9. In My Last Duchess, what is the significance of the statue of Neptune taming the horse?
10. What message does the Duke want to convey by telling the story of his last duchess?
11. What is meant by "the sea of faith"?
12. What served as an inspiration to Arnold to write Dover Beach?
13. Which literary device is used in "Gleams and is gone..Glimmering"?
14. What is the dramatic situation in Dover Beach?
15. What does Dover Beach suggest about love and the then modern world?
16. What is the main message of The Sea and The Skylark?
17. What are the various sounds that the speaker can hear in the poem?
18. What is a 'cynghanedd'? Give an example from The Sea and The Skylark.

19. How does Hopkins contrast nature with modernity in *The Sea and The Skylark*?
20. How are the sounds of the sea and the skylark reflected in the rhythm of the poem?
21. What are the symbols used in *A Prayer for My Daughter*?
22. How does Yeats' *A Prayer For My Daughter* reveal a father's concern for his daughter?
23. Why is the poet so tense about the future of his daughter?
24. Yeats uses metaphor liberally in *A Prayer for My Daughter*. How?
25. Explain the phrase "murderous innocence".
26. Whose 'insistent feet' trample the soul in Eliot's *Preludes*?
27. Comment on the significance of the 'lonely cab horse' in the first section of *Preludes*.
28. How does morning come to consciousness in *Preludes*?
29. Comment on the use of 'irony' in *Preludes*.
30. What does 'burnt out ends of smoky days' signify in the poem *Preludes*?
31. Whom do the poets criticise in 'Is Poetry Always Worthy When It's Old'?
32. How do the poets comment upon the futility of work in the poem *Is Poetry Always Worthy...?*
33. Why is Kalidasa such an important poet of Indian literature? Mention some of his works.
34. What is the metaphor that Kalidasa uses for the effect of poetry?
35. The last verse of the poem focuses on love and marriage. What are the poets' thoughts about it?
36. What is the primary issue being addressed in the poem *Don't Call Me Indo-Anglian*?
37. Who are the various poets Amanuddin lists in his poem and why?

38. How does the poet validate his argument that language cannot be divided?
39. What does the poet mean by “i damn all hyphenated minds”?
40. What does the poet mean by ‘the flesh of dead poets’?
41. How would you categorise the tone of the poem ‘From Homecoming’ by Parthasarthy?
42. What does the speaker condemn?
43. Why is the speaker so critical towards the works of other poets?
44. What does the poet mean by ‘his god had left him’?
45. What are the metaphors the poet uses to describe the disappointment of the speaker?
46. Which event forms the basis of Agyeya’s Hiroshima?
47. What are the various images that Agyeya uses to describe the carnage?
48. “A sun conjured by men converted men to air”. Comment.
49. How does the poet use contrasts to subvert the images in Hiroshima?
50. What does the poet mean by “Of Death’s swart sun-car”?
51. What language does Adiga originally write in?
52. The poem ‘Do Something, Brother’ is satirical. Comment.
53. What are the actions that Adiga wants man to do?
54. Why does the poet call Earth, water, and skies man’s geese with golden eggs?
55. How does Adiga set up an opposition between Man and Woman?
56. Who is the poem ‘Women in Dutch Painting’ dedicated to?
57. Is it possible to gain a certain picture of the women in Dutch paintings through the poem? How?
58. How do the earthen pots become a symbol of individuals in Kurup’s poem?
59. What is the underlying message of Kurup’s poem Earthen Pots?
60. What is the ‘war’ Jayprabha is talking about waging?

61. What kind of images does Jayaprabha conjure up through various metaphors in Stares?
62. How does a poet become a 'great poet' according to Daya Pawar?
63. What is the effect achieved by repeating the phrase 'Oh great poet' in the last stanza of the poem?
64. What is the landscape that Mahapatra depicts in The Election?
65. The poem 'The Election' opposes ordinary and the everyday with the concerns of 'empire'. How does this melding take place?
66. Which theatre tradition does Karnad's Tughlaq follow?
67. Give a character sketch of Aziz.
68. Describe the relationship between Tughlaq and his step mother?
69. Why does Sheikh Imam-udd-Din become an important figure in the play Tughlaq?
70. How does Karnad use symbolism in Tughlaq?
71. What does Mildred symbolise in The Hairy Ape?
72. What 'terror' and 'fear' does the Hairy Ape attempt to induce in the audience?
73. What are the symbols in The Hairy Ape?
74. In The Hairy Ape, what is Yank's childhood like?
75. Why is Rodin's 'The Thinker' significant in The Hairy Ape?

Long Answer Questions:

1. How does Tennysson use legend and myth in his poetry?
2. Compare and contrast Ulysses and Telemachus on the basis of your reading of Tennysson's poem.

3. How does Browning's My Last Duchess critique the misogyny prevalent in the Victorian Society?
4. What are the prayers that Yeats makes for his daughter through his poem?
5. How does Eliot's Preludes become a mirror for the early twentieth century?
6. How does Amanuddin's poem 'Don't call me Indo-Anglian' address the issue of lingual divide in the country?
7. Compare Parthasarthy's 'Homecoming' to Kalidasa's 'Is Poetry Always Worthy When It's Old?'.
8. How does D'souza use the metaphor of pregnancy and notions of placidity to create a portrait of Anna and her aunt? Critically examine.
9. Analyse the ways in which Kurup acknowledges the fragility and the inexpensive nature of pots transform these into virtues.
10. Jayprabha is a feminist writer. Do you agree? Validate your answer on the basis of your reading of her poem Stares.
11. What makes a great poet according to Daya Pawar? Elucidate on the basis of your reading of the poem.
12. Even as Pawar is denouncing Valmiki for not writing protest poetry, he is also focusing the reader's attention on the caste equations visible in the Ramayana. How?
13. 'The Election creates an almost surreal picture, juxtaposing 'private agonies' and 'the trappings' of an election'. Comment.
14. How does Sitakant Mahapatra highlight the state of rural India through his poem?
15. Comment on the irony in Adiga's Do Something, Brother.
16. Comment on the disharmony between man's primitive pride and individualism in The Hairy Ape.

17. How does O'Neill address the twentieth century predicament through The Hairy Ape?
18. Justify the theme of 'alienation' in O'Neill's The Hairy Ape.
19. What is the significance of race in the play The Hairy Ape?
20. How does the issue of sexuality become significant to Yank's emotional development in The Hairy Ape?
21. Karnad's Tughlaq is an allegory of Nehruvian politics in India. Elucidate.
22. Give a character sketch of Karnad's Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq.
23. What are the various reasons because of which Tughlaq is declared as 'the mad king'? Would you call Tughlaq mad or visionary? Discuss on the basis of your reading of the play.
24. Through his play Tughlaq, Karnad tries to highlight the use of religion as a weapon in the power politics of the country. Do you agree? Validate your answer through examples from the text.
25. Karnad's purpose in Tughlaq is to show that in history, faces change but forces don't. Elucidate.