

ASSIGNMENT No. 1

**Q. 1 Give a comprehensive note on genres in English literature.**

“He was not for an age but for all time,” Ben Jonson declared in the dedication to the 1623 First Folio of the plays of William Shakespeare. His poetry and plays are still published, produced, discussed, translated and analyzed in the 21st century, but Shakespeare himself remains the subject of speculation and mystery. Use this **Web Guide to Shakespeare** to examine the man and the controversies, as well as his work and its central place in English-speaking culture today. Shakespeare lived and worked between 1564 and 1616, placing him squarely in the long and important reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603). The period—the **age of Shakespeare**—was shaped by Queen Elizabeth’s indomitable spirit, and is considered something of a golden age for English literature. Shakespeare is often at the forefront of our minds as an example of and great influence on Elizabethan England; read on to learn how his era influenced him in turn. Reading Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets almost 400 years after they were written can be an alienating experience. But learning a little about the tastes, expectations, opinions, politics and society of the time can make Shakespeare’s deeper truths much more accessible.

Shakespeare stands at this time as an English poet and playwright. He was not an intellectual and probably he only had a basic education, but this writer had a tremendous talent and he was incredibly versatile, surpassing other “professionals” such as Greene. As a young man, Shakespeare joined a company of actors, and since 1603 he joined in the “King’s Company” with which he was associated and for which he wrote all his works. He was well-paid, and his literary reputation was affirmed. Although most of his works were successful, it is considered that the greatest ones are Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth Anthony and Cleopatra and The Tempest.

Other important authors that developed their works during the Elizabethan era were Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Dekker, John Fletcher and Francis Beaumont.

Depending on the author, each one had a different technique which compound the whole style. Euphuus, the anatomy of wit and Euphuus and His England is John Lyly’s famous work. His linguistic style is culterano and it is known as euphuism. The first and the best poetic work of Edmund Spenser was The Shepherdes Calendar. Particularly, Spenser used the “Spenserian stanza”, a poetic form that he invented. Each stanza has nine lines: eight lines in iambic pentameter followed by a single ‘Alexandrine’ line in iambic hexameter. The rhyme scheme of these lines is “ababbcbcc.” Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard are considered the introducers of the English sonnet. Finally, Shakespeare also wrote some poems and he popularized the sonnet form, but with some changes in Petrarch’s model. Shakespeare’s sonnets are approximately formed by three four-line stanzas and a final couplet composed in iambic pentameter.

This period has marked a before and after in England, but also in European history. All European countries were influenced by these changes that were happening and we still enjoy nowadays. England experienced a remarkable cultural and artistic renaissance, whose best examples were the proliferation of popular theater and the high level of dramatic production. The importance of this era is present in our lives and for example, we can

attend to a Shakespeare's performance in many places or we can watch a film based on Elizabeth I. Also, we have to thank this queen her interest for education and the opportunity that it was provided to almost everyone to be taught. If this had not happened, major authors, such as Shakespeare, would never have come to show their talent. Anyway, these are not the only themes that were developed in those days. Music, architecture, sports or even food were in a brilliant moment or even they had modifications that are still latent.

## **Q.2 Write a detailed essay on modern age of English literature.**

Modern period in the English literature begins with the 20th century and remain till 1965. The period saw an abrupt break away from the old ways of interacting with the world. In all the previous periods experimentation and individualism were highly discouraged but With the onset of the modern period both these things became virtues. There were many cultural shocks with the beginning of modernism. The blow of the modern age were the World War 1 and 2. These wars began in the year 1914 and last till 1919 and 1939 to 1945 respectively. Aftermath of the world wars was traumatic for everyone. The horror of the world war 1 was evident on the face of every citizen. Feeling of uncertainty was spread and no one knew where the world was heading into.

Advancement of the social science and natural science in the later half of the 19th century and early decades of the 20th century. Gains in material wealth with the rapid development and industrialization. The difference between aristocrats and clergy increased more.

English literature of the modern age started with the initiation of the 20th century. The prominent feature of the literature during the modern age was that it opposed the general attitude towards life as shown in Victorian literature.

People started to regard victorian age as a hypocritical age, having superficial and mean ideals. Hypocrisy of victorian period generated a rebellious attitude in the writers of modern literature. Things that were considered as beautiful and honourable during victorian age was considered as ugly by the writers of modern period. Sense of questioning was absent in the mind of the people from the victorian age.

During Victorian times, people adhere to the voice of the people who were in power, they accepted the rules made the church. People started to accept the law without questioning them. But the generation came after were having critical thinking, they raise questions against the decisions produced by supreme authorities. Writers of modern age refuted the ideas and beliefs of previous era.

Modern age helped in replacing the simple belief of the victorians into modern man's desire to probe. George Bernard Shaw attacked the old superstitious religious beliefs as well as the superstitions of science. He was the one who pioneered the interrogative habits in the mid of modern people. Shaw openly challenged the voice of those who were ruling the country, and religion authority. He provoked the people to come up with questions over the morality and religion.

### **Changes in the literature**

There were various changes took place in the field of literature also during the modern period. The imaginative writing, verses, structure of the verses of Victorian period became obsolete. Writers work started losing the

magic they used to have in previous age. Victorian writers were becoming rancid and their works were failing to evoke the spirit of the readers. Art has to be renewed in order to revitalize the readers. But Victorian art works were lacking the surprising elements and freshness in the content.

### **Declination of sentiments and values**

Modern world people were more into independence, they don't want to bind by the parental authority, whereas Victorians believed in maintaining the home life, they consider themselves a family person more. Moreover, the feeling of love was getting limited to sex in modern times, love had become less of a romance and more like a greed. Such things portray the decline in the values, emotions and feelings in the people of modern period. Literary work also portray the similar life style. If writers try to write on the themes of Victorian age then it would be no longer a striking piece of literature. Therefore, you will find the literature of modern period having less zeal for love, natural beauty and the sentiments. Modern writers come up with fresh point of view suiting the conventional audience.

### **Age of machinery**

There is no doubt that machinery has dominated the modern people's life. Modern period is also known as the age of machinery. People had become too materialistic brought by the machinery. There is no doubt that the advent of machinery made life comfortable for modern man. Living became quite easy and production of goods were also accelerated. But the downward side of mechanical life was that man has mechanical like a clock, using all his energy not according to his/her own will rather according to the time scheme. Such atmosphere of modern life brought great distress among the people.

#### **a) Modern English poetry**

Modern English Poetry is a sort of revolution against the traditional thoughts and types of the Victorian era poetry.

#### **b) Modern English novels**

They rein the literature in the initial three decades of the twentieth century, these years are known as the golden period of modernist novel.

#### **c) The development of 20th century English drama**

George Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde were the most known, praised and celebrated drama writers of the nineteenth century. They were highly popular in the last decade of the century. One can say that they marked the beginning of the modern drama. However, these two eminent writers never brought many variations or innovations in the writing techniques and types.

### **Modern period : Artistic features**

#### **a) Modernism**

Modernism is a quite unique and complex movement in almost all the creative areas. It began at the end of the 19th century. During this period literature got the inception of greatest renaissance of 20th century. When the

first World War ended, a number of literary trends of the modern period such as dadaism, stream of consciousness, futurism, cubism, expressionism and imagism emerged.

### **b) Basic characters of modernism:**

The foundation of modernism lies in the theory of psycho-analysis and irrational philosophy. One of the main characteristics of modern period is “the dehumanization of art”. Some other crucial themes of modernism involves alienated, ill and distorted relation between man and man, man and his own self, man and society and most importantly between man and nature.

### **The pillars of modernism**

- David Herbert Lawrence (1885-1930) – Sons and Lovers
- James Joyce (1882- 1941) Ulysses
- Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888- 1965) Murder in the Cathedral
- George Bernard Shaw (1856- 1950) Mrs. Warrant’ Profession
- William Butler Yeats (1865- 1939) The Land of Heart’s Desire
- John Galaworthy (1867- 1933) The Man of Property

### **Q. 3 Explain the place of literature in daily life.**

For the majority of people around the world, our first serious encounter with literature comes from school. Reading and writing has been drilled in all of us from an early age and this is set in motion with the start of examinations.

Being able to empathise with a group of characters written on a page is categorical and from a student’s perspective a necessary skill. Additionally, the ability to sense themes and messages opens us up to another way of thinking. Literature becomes a vessel. The 130 million books which have been published around the world are guides for the reader and generate a bridge for them to learn something new.

History is not only a gateway to the past, it’s also suggestive of our present and the future. Within every time period lies different people and within them, different stages in our ever-growing culture. Each individual before was a product of their own time. As a species we evolve every day and without that timestamp that literature gives us, we would know nothing about the past.

Literature allows a person to step back in time and learn about life on Earth from the ones who walked before us. We can gather a better understanding of culture and have a greater appreciation of them. We learn through the ways history is recorded, in the forms of manuscripts and through speech itself.

In periods from ancient Egypt, we can gather their history through hieroglyphics and paintings. The symbols Egyptians left behind are what we now use to understand their culture. This is different to Greek and Roman culture, which is found with greater ease, because of their innate desire for accuracy in their writing.

This is the power that words have. They have the ability to spark a meaning, reform a nation and create movements while being completely eternal. Inevitably, they will outlive their speaker.

The impact of literature in modern society is undeniable. Literature acts as a form of expression for each individual author. Some books mirror society and allow us to better understand the world we live in.

Authors like F.Scott Fitzgerald are prime examples of this as his novel 'The Great Gatsby' was a reflection of his experiences and opinions of America during the 1920s.

We are easily connected to the psyche of authors through their stories. However, literature also reiterates the need to understand modern day issues like human conflict.

A Gulf News article says, "In an era of modern media, such as television and movies, people are misled into thinking that every question or problem has its quick corrections or solutions. However, literature confirms the real complexity of human conflict".

Literature is a reflection of humanity and a way for us to understand each other. By listening to the voice of another person we can begin to figure out how that individual thinks. I believe that literature is important because of its purpose and in a society, which is becoming increasingly detached from human interaction, novels create a conversation.

An important aspect of literature lies in how it can help expand the horizons of its readers. It gives its readers an inside look into how cultures from other parts of the world differ from their own, and how customs from other countries help shape how their citizens view the world. By opening their minds to what different cultures have to offer, readers of literature become more accepting of the unique differences of people from around the world. It can also give them unique insights into their own past or present cultures, and can help them make a stronger connection to others in their own cultures.

### **Literature Gives a Look into the Past, Present and Future**

Literature provides a window into the past, allowing readers to see how their ancestors and others dealt with day-to-day life. Readers can see where their own people came from, and how the country they live in became what it is today. Literature can also let its readers look back at the mistakes made by their predecessors, and hopefully avoid those same mistakes.

Modern literature gives readers a view into present-day politics, and sometimes gives us an important view into the lives of the people around us. Fictional literature can also give its readers special insight into the minds of writers to see how they envision the future might turn out, including both the good and the bad.

### **Literature Gives a View into the Human Condition**

Literature also helps readers to understand the human condition, and what makes them who they are, whether talking about love, war or other important themes throughout life. What better way to learn about desire than through the pages of a book? While reading, readers are transported into their own world with their own thoughts, where they can develop their own ideas on basic human emotions, free of embarrassment and without the interference of others.

### **Literature Helps Build Critical Thinking Skills**

Literature helps build crucial, critical thinking skills. Readers can learn more about symbolism within the pages of a book, and it helps them develop the ability to find the hidden meanings within everyday life. Furthermore, they can make connections between the characters and the themes of a book, and how that could apply to real life.

#### **Q. 4 How is English poetry helpful to solve the current problems of society?**

**Poetry is so important because it helps us understand and appreciate the world around us. Poetry's strength lies in its ability to shed a "sideways" light on the world, so the truth sneaks up on you. No question about it. Poetry teaches us how to live.**

Poetry, if we let it and embrace it, can offer us a way to empathize with one another. In its immediacy, poetry is a counselor helping us to understand one another. Leading us away from hate to love, from violence to mercy and pity.

I've said it once before that poetry is a bridge. An immediate path to becoming better people and being the change in the world. Creating a world less about tearing each other down and apart, and more about coming together. Helping us to realize that we're not as different as we think. And despite our differences, we are not alone in our grief, pain, joy or happiness.

Reading and writing poetry is the greater good. Whose benefits are the rebuilding and forging a more connected and caring world.

**From Alice:** As we move toward April and National Poetry Month, think about how you can sprinkle more poetry into your life. It could be reading a **poem a day**; it could be taking a poetry workshop, it could be checking out a classic poetry collection from the library or it could be you attending a poetry reading at your local bookstore or coffee shop. The point is, poetry is everywhere—YOU just have to find it! For the majority of people around the world, our first serious encounter with literature comes from school. Reading and writing has been drilled in all of us from an early age and this is set in motion with the start of examinations.

Being able to empathise with a group of characters written on a page is categorical and from a student's perspective a necessary skill. Additionally, the ability to sense themes and messages opens us up to another way of thinking. Literature becomes a vessel. The 130 million books which have been published around the world are guides for the reader and generate a bridge for them to learn something new.

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### **Q. 5 Explain the Components of an ode.**

Ode and Elegy are both lyrical poems of Greek origins. An ode is a formal, often ceremonious lyric poem that glorifies an individual, event, or a concept. An elegy is a poem of serious reflection, characteristically a lament for the dead. The main difference between ode and elegy is that ode praises or glorifies someone or something whereas elegy laments over the loss of something or someone.

An ode is a type of lyrical stanza. It is an elaborately structured poem that celebrates or praises people, nature or abstract ideas. The subject of the ode is treated reverently, and the poet uses both emotion and intellect to glorify the subject.

The structure or the stanza form of the ode varies. There are three basic structures of odes: the Pindaric, Horatian, and irregular.

Pindaric odes: Named after the Greek poet Pindar, this ode took the form of a public poem which spoke of athletic victories and meant to be set to music. They were heroic and ecstatic. This classical ode has three major parts: the strophe, the antistrophe, and the epode. Thomas Gray’s “*The Progress of Poesy: A Pindaric Ode*” and William Wordsworth’s “*Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Reflections of Early Childhood.*” are examples of English odes written in Pindaric style.

Horatian odes: Named after the Latin poet Horace, these odes were written in quatrains. Unlike Pindaric odes, they were more detached, philosophical, and balanced. Andrew Marvell's "Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland" is an example of an English ode written in Horatian style.

Irregular odes: As the name suggests, these types of odes are devoid of a set structure or formal rhyme scheme. Therefore, the poet has a lot of freedom to try different concepts and forms. Poets like John Keats and William Wordsworth used this ode structure.

A poem is the arrangement of words that contain meaning and musical elements. It is a piece of writing that expresses the writer's thought and feelings in order to set a mood; it can be happy or sad, simple or complex. In just a few words, a poem can say a lot. It can inspire and awe and can be a welcome escape into something that is totally wonderful.

A poem can either be rhyming or non-rhyming. It uses symbols and has lines and stanzas that have sentences, fragments of sentences or both. It uses metaphor and alliteration, especially in poems for children.

There are several types of poems including: Sonnets, which are poems about love and is the most popular type of poem and Ode, which is a lyrical poem with three parts; strophe, antistrophe and epode.

A poem can also be epic, narrative, dramatic, or lyrical. An epic poem is one that is centered on mythical or heroic figures, a narrative poem tells a story, dramatic poems are written in verse, and lyrical poems describe the poet's feelings and thoughts.