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**QUESTION-BANK MCQs FOR CCT 07  
2013-14**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
(ARSN)**

## QUESTION-BANK MCQs FOR CCT 07

### THOMAS HARDY

1. "The Darkling Thrush" is a lyric poem with four eight-line stanzas. (lyric, prose, free-verse)
2. *Darkling Thrush* in the poem "The Darkling Thrush" refers to \_\_\_\_\_. (robin in darkness, vulture in darkness, nightingale in darkness)
3. *The Graphic*, a weekly newspaper, first published the \_\_\_\_\_ poem on December 29, 1900, under the title "By Century's Deathbed," according to *The Evil Image: Two Centuries of Gothic Short Fiction and Poetry*, edited by Patricia L. Skarda and Nora Crow Jaffe. ("The Darkling Thrush", "The Convergence of the Twain", "Strange Meeting")
4. Thomas Hardy wrote "The Darkling Thrush" to express his feelings about the world when it was about to enter the \_\_\_\_\_. (20<sup>th</sup> century, 19<sup>th</sup> century, 21<sup>st</sup> century)
5. Thomas Hardy uses a bleak winter landscape to symbolize the passing of the \_\_\_\_\_ century, which the poem calls a "corpse" (line 10) in a "crypt" (line 11). (19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century, 21<sup>st</sup> century)
6. Hope amid desolation is the theme of "The Darkling Thrush." The frail \_\_\_\_\_ is a harbinger of spring and his song an expression of joy at a new beginning. (old bird, young bird, middle-aged bird)
7. Thomas Hardy's poem "The Convergence of the Twain" deals with the force of fate and man's destiny which man has no control over. Hardy uses the event of the \_\_\_\_\_ to show the forces of fate that man cannot control his destiny. (Titanic, Voyager, Vikrant)
8. The Titanic sank on her maiden voyage on April 15, \_\_\_\_\_ in the North Atlantic after striking an iceberg. (1912, 1913, 1914)
9. In stanza eleven, line three, Hardy tells how the sinking of the Titanic "jars two hemispheres" - England and \_\_\_\_\_. After the Titanic's sinking, the world was faced with the fact that they had been playing odds against fate and they could no longer ignore them. (America, India, South Africa)
10. Stanza five is ironic in the sense that all of the "vaingloriousness" now lies at the bottom of the Atlantic, where only \_\_\_\_\_ can admire it. ("sea-worms", "land-worms", "men")
11. Hardy used "Pride of Life" in the poem *The Convergence of the Twain* to mean \_\_\_\_\_. (technology, industrialization, scientific advancement)
12. The poem *The Convergence of the Twain* deals with the human aspects of pride, vanity, man & nature, coincidence and the force of \_\_\_\_\_. (fate, destiny, providence)
13. *The Convergence of the Twain* describes the sinking of the Titanic to comment on the superiority of nature over the fleeting reality of \_\_\_\_\_. (vanity, pride, ego)
14. In *The Convergence of the Twain* the narrator uses the inevitable meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the ship to demonstrate nature's power. (iceberg, mountain, man)

### **WILFRED OWEN**

15. 'Strange Meeting' by Wilfred Owen is written to reflect upon war: a place worse than \_\_\_\_\_. (hell, heaven, earth)
16. The general setting of the poem 'Strange Meeting' leads us to the conclusion that Wilfred Owen is proposing that enemies at war can be \_\_\_\_\_ outside of it. (friends, relatives, cousins)
17. In Owen's reflection on war, the spirit is rightfully bitter, as his life was taken from him, having had no fulfilment before death. He states that \_\_\_\_\_ is a cause of unnecessary pain and that he was willing to give everything to live a wild and beautiful life. (war, ego, selfishness)
18. According to Owen, \_\_\_\_\_ does not reside in beautiful calm eyes of a woman nor in their plaits of hair, but it is eternal in that it produces pure joy. (beauty, happiness, parmanand)
19. "Foreheads of men have bled where no wounds were" perhaps means that the soldiers killed so much that they were metaphorically sweating the \_\_\_\_\_ of their victims. (blood, vitality, cruelty)
20. This last stanza solidifies the narrator and the soldier's bond. There is a change of tone; and the language is mostly monosyllabic. The two enemies become friends, and \_\_\_\_\_ is evident. (forgiveness, pardon, forgetfulness)

### **W.B.YEATS:**

21. An Irish Nationalist uprising had been planned for Easter \_\_\_\_\_. (Sunday 1916, Monday 1916, 1916)
22. In actuality the Irish Nationalist uprising began in Dublin on Monday 1916. \_\_\_\_\_ seized key points and an Irish republic was proclaimed from the General Post Office. (1500, 1600, 1700)
23. The Easter Rising of 1916 had virtually no chance of immediately freeing Ireland from British rule, but it was a powerful symbolic gesture, and the subsequent execution of its leaders quickly turned them into \_\_\_\_\_ for the cause of Irish nationalism. (martyrs, nationalists, radicalists)
24. The years of guerrilla warfare which followed led ultimately to the emergence in 1922 of the Irish Free State, comprised of \_\_\_\_\_ of Ireland's thirty-two counties. (twenty-six, twenty-five, twenty-seven)
25. James Connolly, also mentioned by Yeats, was the leader of the Irish Citizens Army, an organization founded during a major labor dispute of 1913 to protect workers from attacks by the \_\_\_\_\_. (police, rebels, politicians)
26. Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, John Macbride, James Connolly – all forsook their individual roles and fought with the unified aim of winning \_\_\_\_\_ for their country. (freedom, liberation, independence)
27. \_\_\_\_\_ was an Irish writer who founded St. Edna's School in country Dublin. (Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, John Macbride, James Connolly).
28. \_\_\_\_\_ had done 'most bitter wrong' to someone very close to the heart of Yeats. (Patrick Pearse, Thomas MacDonagh, John Macbride).
29. In "Easter 1916", the term *stone* in line 43 has multiple connotations. It is a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_. It could refer to *Island of the Stone of destiny* or the sacred talisman of TUTHA DE DANAAN. (rigidity, frigidity, materiality)

30. The images of the horses, riders, stream, the birds and clouds in contrast to the *Stone* - all represent \_\_\_\_\_. (flux, change, inevitability)
31. In "Easter 1916", the colour \_\_\_\_\_ stands for the national colour of Ireland. It symbolized the successful revolution for the liberation of Ireland. (green, orange, white)
32. William Butler Yeats wrote "The Second Coming" soon after the end of \_\_\_\_\_, known at the time as "The Great War" (because it was the biggest war yet fought). (World War I, World War II, Kargil War)
33. It was also not long since the Easter Rising in Ireland, a rebellion that was brutally suppressed and the topic of Yeats' earlier poem "Easter, 1916," and the Russian Revolution of 1917, which overthrew the long rule of the \_\_\_\_\_ and was accompanied by its full share of lingering chaos. (Czars, Popes, Emperors)
34. "The Second Coming," refers to the Christian prophecy in the Bible's Book of Revelation that \_\_\_\_\_ will return to reign over Earth in the end times. (Jesus, Moses, Sai Baba)
35. In W. B. Yeats's "The Second Coming," the \_\_\_\_\_ represent different elemental forces in the historical cycles (or different strains in the development of an individual human psyche), each beginning in the purity of a concentrated point and dissipating/degenerating into chaos (or vice versa). (gyres, concentric circles, spherical circles)
36. "The Second Coming," describes an \_\_\_\_\_ very different from the Christian vision of the end of the world. (apocalypse, revelation, catastrophe)
37. In Yeats' mystical/philosophical theory of the world, in the scheme he outlined in his book \_\_\_\_\_, the gyres are *intersecting* cones, one widening out while the other focuses in to a single point. (A Vision, A Revelation, A Catastrophe)
38. In *The Second Coming*, the "rough beast" slouching toward \_\_\_\_\_ is the symbol of this new age; the speaker's vision of the rising sphinx is his vision of the character of the new world. (Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Egypt)
39. "The Second Coming" is a magnificent statement about the contrary forces at work in history, and about the conflict between the modern world and the \_\_\_\_\_. (ancient world, medieval world, modern world)
40. In "The Second Coming," the "blood-dimmed tide" could be referring to \_\_\_\_\_ parting of the Red Sea. (The Pharaoh agreed to let Moses and his people leave Egypt, but then changed his mind. The Pharaoh and his men chased after them. Moses used his staff to part the Red Sea and lead his people to safety, and the Pharaoh and his army were drowned behind them.) (Moses', Christ's, Abraham's)
41. In "The Second Coming," the lines "... A Shape with lion body and the head of man" refers to Yeats' description of the \_\_\_\_\_, a mythical beast or the archetypal symbol that first inspired the Egyptians to build that big thing in the desert and which is now inspiring him. (Sphinx, Pharaoh, Hitler) (The figure of the human head with a lion's body is called a sphinx. Sphinx are said to be temple guardians; they guard royal tombs and religious temples. If the sphinx is guarding a royal tomb then the head on the sphinx is usually the head of the pharaoh buried within the tomb. The most widely known sphinx is the Great Sphinx of Giza. The head of that sphinx is said to be that of Pharaoh Khafra. The gaze of the sphinx has no mercy for humanity much like the desert sun as no mercy for those beneath its rays.)

42. In "The Second Coming," Spiritus Mundi is "a collective unconscious or memory, in which the human race preserves its past memories. Spiritus mundi translated from Latin means \_\_\_\_\_. (spirit of the universe, consciousness of the universe, atman of the universe)
43. In "The Second Coming," the rocking cradle is generally thought to be the image of \_\_\_\_\_ and his mother. It can also be used to represent the anti-Christ being rocked by his mother. The rough beast is the anti-Christ that will bring destruction and pain to the world. This unholy creature will be born in the holy birth place of Christ. (Christ, Satan, God)
44. In "Sailing to Byzantium," \_\_\_\_\_, the speaker says, is a "paltry thing," merely a tattered coat upon a stick, unless his soul can clap its hands and sing; and the only way for the soul to learn how to sing is to study "monuments of its own magnificence." (an old man, a young man, a man)
45. In "Sailing to Byzantium," the speaker says that once he has been taken out of the natural world, he will no longer take his "bodily form" from any "natural thing," but rather will fashion himself as \_\_\_\_\_ made of hammered gold, such as Grecian goldsmiths make "To keep a drowsy Emperor awake," or set upon a tree of gold "to sing / To lords and ladies of Byzantium / Or what is past, or passing, or to come." (a singing bird, a singing poet, a singing parrot)
46. "Sailing to Byzantium," is Yeats' definitive statement about the agony of old age and the imaginative and spiritual work required to remain a vital individual even when the heart is *fastened to a dying animal*. Here the expression *fastened to a dying animal* refers to \_\_\_\_\_. (the body, the soul, the heart)
47. "Sailing to Byzantium" is one of Yeats's most \_\_\_\_\_ works, and one of the greatest poems of the twentieth century. (inspired, important, significant)
48. In the astonishing final stanza of the poem "Sailing to Byzantium", the poet declares that once he is out of his body he will never again appear in the form of a natural thing; rather, he will become a golden bird, sitting on a golden tree, singing of the past ("what is past"), the present (that which is "passing"), and the \_\_\_\_\_ (that which is "to come"). (future, tomorrow, bygone era)
49. In "Leda and the Swan," the speaker retells a story from Greek mythology, the rape of the girl Leda by the god \_\_\_\_\_, who had assumed the form of a swan. (Zeus, Jupiter, Jupe)
50. "Leda and the Swan" is a \_\_\_\_\_, a traditional fourteen-line poem in iambic pentameter. (sonnet, lyric, heroic couplet)
51. Like "The Second Coming," "Leda and the Swan" describes a moment that represented \_\_\_\_\_ in Yeats's historical model of gyres, which he offers in *A Vision*, his mystical theory of the universe. (a change of era, a change of civilization, a change of culture)
52. "Leda and the Swan" represents something like its beginning; as Yeats understands it, the "history" of Leda is that, raped by the god Zeus in the form of a swan, she laid eggs, which hatched into Clytemnestra and Helen and the war-gods Castor and Polydeuces—and thereby brought about \_\_\_\_\_. (the Trojan War, the Battle of Miltiades, the Marathon War)

### **ROBERT GRAVES**

53. On July 24, 1895, Robert Graves was born in \_\_\_\_\_, near London. (Wimbledon, Southamptonshire, Durberville)
54. The name of Ulysses's wife is \_\_\_\_\_. (Penelope, Helen, Clytemnestra)
55. Scylla and \_\_\_\_\_ were mythical sea-monsters noted by Homer in his The Iliad. (Charybdis, Sympleglades, Sirens)
56. Circe in Greek mythology refers to the Goddess of \_\_\_\_\_. (magic, sun, witchcraft)
57. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the group of sea creatures that were part woman and part bird or part-woman and part-fish whose beautiful singing made sailors sail towards them into rocks and dangerous waters. (Siren, Sphinx, Scylla)

### **EZRA POUND:**

58. Pound was born in Hailey, Idaho, in \_\_\_\_\_, and raised in Philadelphia, the son of Homer Loomis Pound and Isabel Weston Pound. (1885, 1886, 1887)
59. In *The Pact*, Pound is addressing \_\_\_\_\_ as a son might address his father. (Walt Whitman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau)
60. At a psychological level, the poem *The Pact* is \_\_\_\_\_ in nature, as Walt Whitman killed off his *fathers* to create American Poetry and his son grew up to kill him while he still had a relationship with his grandfather. (Oedipal, suicidal, homosexual).
61. Pound's 1913 poem "In a Station of the Metro" is a fine demonstration of his \_\_\_\_\_ motif. (imagistic, symbolic, linguistic)
62. "In a Station of the Metro," Pound may have seen different faces in a \_\_\_\_\_ subway and defined the "faces in the crowd" with the illustration of pure beauty or images of flawless human beings. (Paris, London, Delhi)
63. "In a Station in a Metro," Pound perhaps envisioned the people in the crowd as beautiful, for the diversity they embodied as naturally depicted in the blossoming beauty of \_\_\_\_\_. (Petals, Flowers, Nature)
64. "In a Station in a Metro," the poem is a variation on the Japanese form of the \_\_\_\_\_. In English, they are often written as three-line poems. The first line has five syllables, the second seven, and the third five again. (haiku, sonnet, couplet)

### **T.S. ELIOT:**

65. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" is an examination of the tortured \_\_\_\_\_ of the prototypical modern man—overeducated, eloquent, neurotic, and emotionally stilted. (psyche, mind, soul)
  66. The epigraph to "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," from \_\_\_\_\_ *Inferno*, describes Prufrock's ideal listener: one who is as lost as the speaker and will never betray to the world the content of Prufrock's present confessions. (Dante's, Sidney's, Chaucer's)
  67. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Eliot displays the strong influence by the \_\_\_\_\_ Symbolists, like Mallarmé, Rimbaud, and Baudelaire, whom Eliot had been reading almost constantly while writing the poem. (French, English, Russian)
  68. The second defining characteristic of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," is its use of \_\_\_\_\_ and juxtaposition. (fragmentation, completeness, totality)
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69. At the very opening of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," the poet compares the evening \_\_\_\_\_ to a patient strapped on an operating table and given ether to numb the pain of surgery. (sky, fire, water)
70. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Prufrock resembles Guido da Montefeltro, who tried to \_\_\_\_\_ God. (fool, mock, define)
71. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," the expression *there will be time* is a reference to \_\_\_\_\_ *To His Coy Mistress*. (Andrew Marwell's, John Donne's, George Herbert's)
72. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," *Works and Days* is the name of a work by \_\_\_\_\_ about the importance of working for a living and not living a lazy pointless existence. (Hesoid, Homer, Virgil)
73. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," \_\_\_\_\_, as in Hamlet is a marked characteristic of Alfred Prufrock. (*Indecisiveness, Procrastination, Indecision*)
74. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," the expression *I know the voices with a dying fall* is a literary reference to Shakespeare's \_\_\_\_\_. (Twelfth Night, Hamlet, As You Like It)
75. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Prufrock talks about the odds and ends of his daily life, the evenings he spent etc. and compares his life to a used up \_\_\_\_\_. (cigarette, pipe, envelope)
76. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Prufrock wishes that he should have been a pair of \_\_\_\_\_ claws that *scuttle* across the floor of the ocean. (crab, tortoise, eagle)
77. In "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," Prufrock compares his task of asking the momentous question to \_\_\_\_\_ coming back from the dead. (Lazarus, Peter, Walter Cowan)
78. In *Journey of the Magi*, the three wise men, as per the gospel story, were Balthazar, Gaspor and \_\_\_\_\_. (Melchoir, Montefeltro, John the Baptist)
79. The poem, 'Journey of the Magi' opens with the nativity sermon of \_\_\_\_\_ preached in 1622 which describes the hardships Magi faced due to deep ways, sharp weather, meeting snow and hostile conditions which were hard to combat. (Lancelot Andrews, Lancelot Peter, Lancelot Simon)
80. The second half of 'Journey of the Magi' abounds in symbolism with the \_\_\_\_\_ valley signifying the change in their lives that followed the arduous journey. (temperate, tropical, equatorial)
81. In 'Journey of the Magi' the expression 'an old white horse' is a metaphor for rebirth of \_\_\_\_\_, the Savior and the defeat of paganism. (Christ, Moses, Abraham)
82. In 'Journey of the Magi' the expression 'Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver' refers to betrayal of Christ by \_\_\_\_\_. (Judas, Simon, Peter)
83. The poem *Journey of the Magi* can be studied at three levels: The actual journey of the Magi; Eliot's journey from doubt to faith while his conversion to \_\_\_\_\_, and the journey of any individual in spiritual quest. (Anglicanism, Protestantism, Catholicism)
84. The time period described in the four sections of the Preludes are Dusk, Morning, Night & Dawn and \_\_\_\_\_ respectively. (Late afternoon, noon, afternoon)

**W.H.AUDEN:**

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85. The paintings in *Musee des Beaux Arts* fully bring out the \_\_\_\_\_ of humanity to individual suffering. (indifference, understanding, knowledge)
86. The poem 'Musee des Beaux Arts', which means 'Museum of Fine Arts' in \_\_\_\_\_, is a poem W.H. Auden composed after he visited that museum in Paris. (French, Italian, Spanish)
87. In *Musee des Beaux Arts* Auden praises the painters, like \_\_\_\_\_, who understood the nature of suffering and humanity's indifference to it. (Brueghel, Flanders, Picasso)
88. In *Musee des Beaux Arts* a third picture of Brueghel shows \_\_\_\_\_ falling from the sky into the sea, farmers hearing the great splash, turning to see what the matter was, and then turning once again to their work entirely at ease and undisturbed. (Icarus, Flanders, Angelo)
89. Critics have taken *Musee des Beaux Arts* as a \_\_\_\_\_ on the callous indifference to suffering of the modern humanity. (satire, statement, comment)
90. The poem *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ sections of varying lengths which form separate poetic units within the poem. (three, two, four)
91. Section I of *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* describes, in the dramatic setting, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Yeats. (death, life, birth)
92. Yeats *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* died on a day when it was bitter cold, brooks were frozen and \_\_\_\_\_ were deserted. (airports, stations, streets)
93. Auden *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* introduces an idea which is central to the theme of the poem; a poet's work ultimately becomes \_\_\_\_\_ of him because he had no control over the interpretation which posterity will give it. He becomes what his readers make him. (independent, liberated, autonomous)
94. In Section II of *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* Auden proceeds to examine the psychological implications of the work of a poet and assesses the worth of poetry in terms of modern \_\_\_\_\_. (psychology, sociology, anthropology)
95. Auden *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* says that Poetry fails to produce any \_\_\_\_\_ or to make changes in society. What lives after a poet in his style; his manner of saying rather than the subject or the content of his poetry. (revolutions, wars, transformations)
96. In section-III of *In Memory of W.B. Yeats*, the poet universalizes the tragedy of Yeats by relating it to the wider theme of the \_\_\_\_\_ in society. (artist, novelist, essayist)
97. The second half of section- III *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* deals with imminence of \_\_\_\_\_. The time of Yeats' death was a terrible one. "It was a time of 'intellectual disgrace' sans pity and compassion. (World-war I, World-War II, World-War III)
98. Auden *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* makes good use of other extended metaphors by establishing a different central metaphor for almost each stanza in part 1. He compares death to an invading \_\_\_\_\_ that takes over Yeats' whole being in stanza 4. (army, sultan, being)
99. Auden *In Memory of W.B. Yeats* uses a cluster of geographic terms (provinces, squares and suburbs) to illustrate the personal world of Yeats being shut down. These linked geographical comparisons metaphorically make Yeats a whole \_\_\_\_\_ unto himself, which magnifies the gravity of the loss. (country, state, province)
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100. The Unknown Citizen by W.H. Auden is a satiric poem. It describes an \_\_\_\_\_ citizen in a government-controlled state. (average, extraordinary, ordinary)
101. 'The Unknown Citizen' is a typical Auden's poem in that it shows the poet's profound concern for the \_\_\_\_\_ world and its problems. (modern, ancient, medieval)
102. In 'The Unknown Citizen' Auden says that statistics cannot sum up an individual and physical facts are inadequate to evaluate human \_\_\_\_\_. - for man does not live by bread alone. (happiness, sorrow, grief)
103. The 'The Unknown Citizen' is a bitter attack on modern society-its indifference towards individuality and identity. The only way for an individual to survive in a regimented society is to conform, obey and live in perpetual \_\_\_\_\_slavery. (mental, physical, Intellectual)

**DYLAN THOMAS:**

104. In "Fern Hill" Dylan Thomas does something which is very difficult for most people, and that is to cross the bridge of memory and re-enter the time before the age of \_\_\_\_\_. (reason, enlightenment, industrial revolution)
105. In "Fern Hill" "Honoured among wagons" shows the young boy riding on a wagon through the countryside which is full of apple orchards laden with fruit, and feeling like a \_\_\_\_\_. (prince, pauper, an aristocrat)
106. In "Fern Hill" the poets "sky-blue\_\_\_\_\_" are all his happy pursuits free and wide as the sky, but Time is waiting and allows "so few and such morning songs before the children, green and golden, follow him out of grace." (trades, husbandry, exchange)
107. In "Do not go Gentle Into That Good Night," Dylan wrote about his \_\_\_\_\_ for he was distressed to see him lose his strength of character and independence. (father, grandfather, uncle)
108. In "Do not go Gentle Into That Good Night," the 'good-night' is \_\_\_\_\_ which is also described as 'dying of the light'. (death, life, birth)

**PHILIP LARKIN:**

109. In \_\_\_\_\_, the speaker discusses the futility and utility of going to a Church. (Church Going, The Whitsun Weddings, Easter Sunday)
110. The major theme of 'Church Going' is erosion of \_\_\_\_\_ sentiments. (religious, political, social)
111. \_\_\_\_\_ was developed by George Pullman (1831-1901) who built the Pioneer Sleeping Car in 1863 and formed the Pullman Palace Car company in 1867. (Pullmans, Carriages, Trams)
112. The poem 'The Whitsun Weddings' is about the poet's journey from Hull to \_\_\_\_\_ in a train. (London, Paris, Italy)
113. The Whitsun Day is the day on which the \_\_\_\_\_ Government frees marriage taxes for one day. (British, French, Roman)
114. Whit Sunday and Whit Monday are important days in the English religious calendar otherwise known as \_\_\_\_\_. (Pentecost, Odeon, Confetti)

**TED HUGHES:**

115. 'The Thought Fox' is a poem about writing \_\_\_\_\_. (Poetry, An Essay, A Novel)
116. In 'The Thought Fox' the idea of a poem comes like a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night. (Fox, Wolf, Rabbit)
117. In 'The Thought Fox' the \_\_\_\_\_ is the figure of the unconscious or the Imagination. (Totem, Fox, Snail)
118. In 'The Thought Fox' the disturbance that the poet talks about is not in the external darkness of the night, for the \_\_\_\_\_ is itself a metaphor for the deeper and more intimate darkness of the poet's imagination in whose depths an idea is mysteriously stirring. (night, day, twilight)
119. \_\_\_\_\_ appeared in Hughes's first collection of poems, *The Hawk in the Rain* (1957), and is one of his most celebrated and anthologized poems. ("The Thought-Fox", "Hawk Roosting", "The Crow")
120. In 'Hawk Roosting' the Hawk's mind is equated with the psychology of a \_\_\_\_\_. (dictator, monarch, emperor)

#### **SEAMUS HEANEY:**

121. Seamus Heaney's 'Digging' is about the discovery of one's \_\_\_\_\_ wherein one's true identity is revealed. (past, present, future)
122. \_\_\_\_\_ is a short poem of seven four-line stanzas (quatrains) and the final work in Seamus Heaney's second collection of poetry, *Door into the Dark*. ("Bogland", "Digging", "Pumping")
123. In the poem "Bogland", the poet compares the Bog to \_\_\_\_\_ as it preserves things. (butter, vegetable, fruit)
124. The poem "Bogland" establishes the bog as the source of all \_\_\_\_\_ memory and ancestry, linking the present to the past through the constancy of the land, as "butter sunk under/more than a hundred years/ was recovered salty and white". (Irish, English, Scottish)

#### **D.H. LAWRENCE:**

125. The \_\_\_\_\_ is from the series titled "Birds, Beasts and Flowers". (Snake, Lion, Crab)
126. Lawrence drew the inspiration of this poem from a meeting with a snake at his watering trough in \_\_\_\_\_ when he lived at Fontana Vecchia in Taormina. (1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23)
127. In the poem the poet's voice of \_\_\_\_\_ instructs him to kill the snake. (education, god, society)

#### **STEPHEN SPENDER:**

128. The literal meaning of 'pylons' point to tall \_\_\_\_\_ posts that hold electric wires. (metallic, golden, silver)

#### **JOHN BETJEMAN:**

129. A \_\_\_\_\_ in the British military is a commissioned officer ranking just below captain. (Subaltern, Lieutenant, Major)
130. In "A Subaltern's Love-Song" the speaker delights in repeating the girl's name \_\_\_\_\_. (*Miss J. Hunter Dunn*, Miss Hunter J. Dunn, Miss Dunn) who lives in Aldershot.

131. This poem "Death in Leamington" is infused with loneliness and despair. According to the poet \_\_\_\_\_ is inevitable, but we should yearn to make a difference in the world. (Death, Birth, Immortality)

**TOM GUNN:**

132. The poem "Considering the Snail" is an exploration of the hidden forces that govern \_\_\_\_\_, 'drenching it with purpose'. (nature, God, man)

**AS PER UPDATED SYLLABUS:**

133. Owen's \_\_\_\_\_ explores the effects of war on those who live through it by comparing the present life of an injured soldier to his past hopes and accomplishments. ('Disabled', 'Cripppled', 'Handicapped')

134. In Robert Graves' "Rocky Acres" the poet doesn't love the rocky terrain simply for its boulders and dried out land but because he likes it for its \_\_\_\_\_. (purity, simplicity, integrity)

135. In "The Lake Isle of Innisfree", the poet Yeats expresses his desire to build a small cabin at \_\_\_\_\_, out of natural materials, and live alone. (Innisfree, Innfree, Inisfree)

136. In Yeats' "A Coat" \_\_\_\_\_ in poetry is created by the reader making the connection between the literal and the metaphorical, and in doing so, "reading between the lines." (Meaning, Structure, Form)

137. In Eliot's "To the Indian Who Died in Africa" the core idea is one of \_\_\_\_\_ and detachment as propagated in Hindu philosophy. (Karma, Action, Selfless Action)

138. Eliot, who was an extraordinary poet as well as a scholar, seems to be inspired in the poem "To the Indian Who Died in Africa" by the sayings of the \_\_\_\_\_ while choosing this theme. (Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata)

139. According to Eliot a true \_\_\_\_\_ never does regret laying down his life in an alien land as he knows that the call of duty, wherever it takes him and however fraught with danger, is much more preferable than remaining safe and secure in his homeland. (soldier, teacher, administrator)

### **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS: CCT 07**

1. Give the name of the weekly that first published Hardy's *The Darkling Thrush*?

Ans. *The Graphic*, a weekly newspaper, first published the poem on December 29, 1900, under the title "By Century's Deathbed".

2. Identify the season and mood spoken about in *The Darkling Thrush*?

Ans. When the speaker leaned on a gate before a thicket of small trees, the depressing **winter** landscape and the ghostly gray frost made the setting sun seem **lonely** and **abandoned**.

3. What is the theme of *The Darkling Thrush*?

Ans. Hope amid desolation is the theme of "The Darkling Thrush." The frail old bird is a harbinger of spring and his song an expression of joy at a new beginning.

4. Make a list of the words that signify the speaker's gloomy mood in "The Darkling Thrush."

Ans. The words *spectre-gray* (line 2), *Winter's dregs* (line 3), *desolate* (line 3) etc. all signify the gloomy mood of the poet in *The Darkling Thrush*.

5. What is the idea behind the using of the event of the Titanic in "The Convergence of the Twain"?

Ans. Thomas Hardy's poem "The Convergence of the Twain" deals with the force of fate and man's destiny over which man has no **control**.

6. When did the Titanic sink?

Ans. The Titanic sank on her maiden voyage on April 15, 1912 in the North Atlantic after striking an iceberg.

7. Why was the Titanic considered unsinkable?

Ans. The Titanic was considered unsinkable because the latest and most modern marine equipment (that was available) had gone into the designing of the "unsinkable" Titanic.

8. How is fate personified in "The Convergence of the Twain"?

Ans. In the last stanza of the poem, fate is personified as "The Spinner of the Years": and once fate says "Now!" it is your time, nothing can change it.

9. What is the occasion mentioned in "The Convergence of the Twain"?

Ans. The wreck of the *Titanic* occasioned untold human suffering. This poem is appropriate to the occasion i.e., to the "Dramatic and Operatic Matinée in Aid of the 'Titanic' Disaster Fund".

10. State the maiden destination of the Titanic that it was scheduled to undertake?

Ans. Thomas Hardy, was deeply moved by the disaster, which occurred when the most opulent ocean liner ever built struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage from **Southampton to New York**.

11. What does the poem "The Convergence of the Twain" aim to prove?

Ans. "The Convergence of the Twain" proves that in the end, material items are worthless, and all that money spent on them has gone to waste.

12. Name the poet that introduced Wilfred Owen to the London Literary Society?

Ans. Siegfried Sassoon

13. What is the source of the title Strange Meeting by Wilfred Owen?

Ans. Wilfred Owen might have taken inspiration from *The Revolt of Islam* (1818), a poem by P.B. Shelley.

14. Name the two countries that are alluded to in Strange Meeting?

Ans. England and Germany

15. State the end and the underlying message of Strange Meeting.

Ans. The poem ends with the strange friend suggesting that he and the speaker, now that they have fought and killed each other, should now go to sleep. At least in death, they are at peace. The poem carries the message that readers should take **pity** on other people and on themselves—before it is too late.

16. How does Owen define beauty in Strange Meeting?

Ans. Beauty, according to Owen, is eternal in that it produces pure joy, which is necessary for happiness on earth. Since his life on earth terminated untimely, he laments that he could not enjoy beauty or joy of life nor could he become cause of joy to others.

17. What does the title of the poem Strange Meeting signify?

Ans. Everything in Wifred Owen's poem *Strange Meeting* is strange. It is a strange poetic fantasy. It deals with an encounter between the speaker and supposedly unknown or strange person, the enemy soldier killed by the speaker yesterday in the battlefield. Again the encounter takes place in the strangest place of all - hell. But above all, the stranger speaks of his strange experience and realization of war and peace, life and death.

18. Who is the persona in "Strange Meeting"?

Ans. The poet himself is the persona in "Strange Meeting".

19. What are the different symbolic meanings of Stone mentioned in line 43 of Easter 1915?

Ans. The 'Stone' is the symbol of rigidity, which reflects the dedication of the rebels to their political ideals. It also represents Ireland. Jordan states that "one of the well-known names of Ireland" [is] 'Inisfail' (Island of the Stone of Destiny). In addition, the Stone of Destiny was one of the four sacred talismans of the Tuatha De Danaan (people of the Goddess Dana), a mystical race of druids and seers who ruled Ireland centuries before the coming of Christianity" (37). The stone is said to be both enchanting and fatal. In these first four lines, Yeats is saying that the revolutionaries are enchanted by the Stone of Destiny to alter the natural order of Ireland with violence.

20. Name the four Irish patriots mentioned by the poet in Easter 1916.

Ans. The names of the four Irish patriots are MacDonagh, MacBride, Connolly and Pearse.

21. Identify the final person that Yeats refers to in the poem Easter 1916?

Ans. Major John MacBride. He was the husband of Maud Gonne - the woman that Yeats had been madly in love with for many years.

22. What does the term *Spiritus Mundi* mean in the poetry of W.B. Yeats?

Ans. The term *Spiritus Mundi* means the collective spirit of mankind.

23. Name the book in which Yeats crafted a mystical theory of the universe?

Ans. **A Vision**

24. What does the "rough beast" slouching towards Bethlehem signify?

Ans. The "rough beast" slouching toward Bethlehem is the symbol of this new age; the speaker's vision of the rising sphinx is his vision of the character of the new world.

25. Define Yeats' concept of *gyres*?

Ans. To grasp the concept of Yeats' theories and appreciate their growth, it is vital to understand the gyre. A single gyre is a geometric figure, resembling a funnel, which begins at a fixed point. From this point the spiral grows wider and wider until it reaches its maximum growth. At this climax, the single gyre "begins to retrace its path in the opposite direction".

26. Which poem of Yeats is his definitive statement about the agony of old age and the imaginative and spiritual work required to remain a vital individual even when the heart is "fastened to a dying animal" (the body)?

Ans. Sailing to Byzantium.

27. What does Yeats idealize in Sailing to Byzantium?

Ans. Yeats idealizes Byzantium as the only place where art and man are one. It is the only place that has been able to impartially represent history. In Byzantium, art and monuments are not influenced by anything other than their subject; they are true representations of history, and they are revered.

28. Who does the poet desire to be in Sailing to Byzantium?

Ans. In this poem, the sages are the saints of God; they are the chosen ones, who will live on in the hearts of devotees, forever. They are everything that he wants to be.

29. Which is the mythical bird alluded to by the poet in Sailing to Byzantium?

Ans. In the third stanza the poet makes one think of the mythological bird, the phoenix. The phoenix is said to be a very colorful bird that lives between 500 and 1,000 years. When the bird senses that it is nearing the end of its life it will build a nest out of twigs. This nest turns into fire, and burns the nest and the phoenix; from the ashes another phoenix is born. This cycle continues on forever. The phoenix is destroyed and birthed from the holy fire.

30. What is the final wish of the poet in Sailing to Byzantium?

Ans. Yeats wrote that he had "read somewhere that in the Emperor's palace at Byzantium [there] was a tree made of gold and silver, and artificial birds that sang," which would be used to keep the Emperor awake. Yeats wants to be one of these **gold birds**, because they cannot die and because their history will be attached to the Emperor's history. Royalty is studied and revered by scholars and citizens alike, and their history will never die, which is what the narrator wants for himself.

31. Briefly state the myth alluded to in *Leda and the Swan*?

Ans. The classical myth of Leda and the Swan talks about Zeus who fell in love with a mortal, Leda the Trojan queen, and raped her while taking on the form of a swan to protect his identity. She became pregnant with Helen of Troy. That Helen was part goddess helps to explain how her beauty brought about the destruction of two civilizations.

32. What is the form and rhyme scheme of *Leda and the Swan*?

Ans. "Leda and the Swan" is a sonnet, a traditional fourteen-line poem in iambic pentameter. The structure of this sonnet is Petrarchan with a clear separation between the first eight lines (the "octave") and the final six (the "sestet"), the dividing line being the moment of ejaculation—the "shudder in the loins." The rhyme scheme of the sonnet is ABAB CDCD EFGEFG.

33. What does the poem *Leda and the Swan* actually symbolize?

Ans. "Leda and the Swan" describes a moment that represented **a change of era in Yeats's historical model of gyres**, which he offers in *A Vision*, his mystical theory of the universe. It represents something like its beginning; as Yeats understands it, the "history" of Leda is that, raped by the god Zeus in the form of a swan, she laid eggs, which hatched into Clytemnestra and Helen and the war-gods Castor and Polydeuces—and thereby brought about the Trojan War ("The broken wall, the burning roof and tower, / And Agamemnon dead").

34. Name the poet who is being addressed by Pound in A Pact.

Ans. Ezra Pound is addressing Walt Whitman as a son might address a father.

35. Explain the nature of agreement that Pound wishes to have with Whitman?

Ans. Towards the end of the poem when Pound writes, "We have one sap and one root- let there be commerce between us", it seems like he is trying to reconnect with Whitman. These lines sound like he is trying to get back to good terms with Whitman. Pound realizes

that he needs the help of Walt Whitman to succeed and make his poetry better. He has used the “roots” of Walt Whitman to write his poetry. With Whitman’s new style and legacy, Ezra Pound was able to break out with his new style of poetry.

36. Name the two characters alluded to in Eliot’s *The Love-Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

Ans. Dante (in the first section) and Guido da Montefeltro (in the second and the third) are both personified in the character of Prufrock.

37. Briefly state the underlying idea of *The Love-Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

Ans. The poem is an examination of the tortured psyche of the prototypical modern man—overeducated, eloquent, neurotic, and emotionally stilted.

38. Comment on the form of *The Love-Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

Ans. “Prufrock” is a variation on the dramatic monologue, a type of poem popular with Eliot’s predecessors. The rhyme scheme of this poem is irregular but not random. While sections of the poem may resemble free verse, in reality, “Prufrock” is a carefully structured amalgamation of poetic forms.

39. When and where was Jesus Christ born?

Ans. According to tradition, it was in the middle of Winter that Jesus Christ was born, on 25th, December, and the Magi arrived at his birth place, Bethlehem in Judea (now Jordan), on 6th, January.

40. What do the Magi strongly miss during their journey to Bethlehem?

Ans. The Magi missed the summer palaces back in their native countries, on the slopes, the terraces and the silken girls; girls wearing silk and girls as soft as silk; who brought the sherbet.

41. Name the Magi or the three wise men alluded to in *Journey of the Magi*?

Ans. As per the Gospel story, the Magi were the three wise men namely Balthazar- King of Chaldea, Gaspar - King of Ethiopia, Melchior -King of Nubia who belonged to the priestly class of magicians and had come to Bethlehem to pay homage to infant Christ presenting him with gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense. They symbolize wandering human souls in search of spirituality, the eternal spiritual quester.

42. Whose nativity sermon is referred to at the very opening of *Journey of the Magi*?

Ans. The poem, ‘Journey of the Magi’ opens with the nativity sermon of Lancelot Andrews preached in 1622 which describes the hardships Magi faced due to deep ways, sharp weather, meeting snow and hostile conditions which were hard to combat.

43. At how many levels can the poem *Journey of the Magi* be studied?

Ans. The poem can be studied at three levels : The actual journey of the Magi; Eliot’s journey from doubt to faith while his conversion to anglicanism, and journey of any individual in spiritual quest.

44. Identify the year of publications of the *Preludes*.

Ans. In 1917 he published ‘Preludes’. ‘Preludes’ consists of four short poems, numbered I, II, III and IV.

45. What are the major themes of the *Preludes*.

Ans. Suffering, The Nature Of Life In The City, Women And Men, Pretence, Time, Lifestyle, Poverty are some of the themes dealt with in the *Preludes*.

46. Identify the museum and the painter referred to in the poem *Musee des beaux arts*.

Ans. The **Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels** in 1938 and the painting by **Brueghel** “The Fall of Icarus” are referred to in the poem.

47. Elaborate on the greek myth of Icarus alluded to in the poem *Musee des beaux arts*.

Ans. Icarus was a Greek mythological figure, also known as the son of Daedalus. Both Icarus and his father were imprisoned in Crete. Daedalus therefore made wings for the both of them and gave his son instruction on how to fly (not too close to the sea as the water will soak the wings, and not too close to the sky as the sun will melt them). Icarus, however, appeared to be obstinate and did fly too close to the sun. This caused the wax that held his wings to his body to melt. Icarus crashed into the sea and died.

48. What is the major theme of the poem *Musee des beaux arts*.

Ans. The theme in the poem is human suffering.

49. Who was Peter Breugehel?

Ans. Peter Breughel, who lived in the first half of the 16th century in a little country called Belgium. His paintings, in general, have allegorical or moralizing significance.

50. What is the nature of the poem *In Memory of W.B. Yeats*.

Ans. The poem, is an elegy written to mourn the death of W.B. Yeats, but it is different from the conventional elegy. Traditionally, in an elegy all nature is represented as mourning the death, here nature is represented as going on its course indifferent and unaffected. The great poet's death goes unnoticed both by man and nature: human life goes on as usual, and so does nature. Secondly, in the traditional elegy the dead is glorified and his death is said to be a great loss for mankind at large. But Auden does not glorify Yeats.

51. What kind of a poem is *The Unknown Citizen*?

Ans. The Unknown Citizen by W.H. Auden is a satiric poem. It describes an average citizen in a government-controlled state. In many big cities, there is a monument to the Unknown Soldier that stands for the thousands of unknown soldiers who die for their country. The title of Auden's poem parodies this.

52. What is the significance of the sub-title mentioned in *The Unknown Citizen*.

Ans. The sub-title to the poem "To JS/07/M/378/ This Marble Monument Is Erected by the State" alludes to the concept enforced by the government that every human being must be classified by a alpha-numeric tag to distinguish who they are, rather than being able to have their own personal identity. The poet scoffs at humans being given alpha-numeric names when they're already struggling for their own personal identity in a world clustered with the advancing technology.

53. What kind of a poem is Fern Hill?

Ans. Fern Hill by Dylan Thomas is an autobiographical poem in which Thomas uses the memories of childhood days in order to explore the theme of journey from innocence to experience.

54. What kind of a prayer does the son make to his father in "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night"?

Ans. The poem "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night", by Dylan Thomas is a son's plea to a dying father. His purpose is to show his father that all men face the same end, but they fight for life, nonetheless. "Old age should burn and rave at close of day," (line 2) is almost the thesis for this poem.

55. Name the four categories of men as classified by Thomas in "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night".



Ans. Thomas classifies men into four different categories to persuade his father to realize that no matter the life choices, consequences, or personalities, there is a reason to live. The categories are (i) Wise men (ii) Good Men (iii) Wild Men and (iv) Grave Men.

56. State the theme of Philip Larkin's Church Going.

Ans. The theme of Philip Larkin's poem "Church Going" is the erosion of religious abutments. Larkin is largely considered to be an atheist; however, he did live in a society that was predominantly Christian, so this poem is perhaps his way of trying to understand the attraction of religion.

57. Identify the rhythm of the poem "Church Going". When was it published?

Ans. This poem was written in 1954, and published in 1955. The rhythm of the poem is iambic tetrameter, and it has a strict rhyme of **ababcadcd**.

58. What kind of a poem is "Church Going"?

Ans. Church Going, written in 1954, is a monologue in which the speaker discusses the futility and the utility of going to a church. It clearly reveals the social context of the time when it was written. It was a time of general decline in the attendance in churches which had begun to take place in 1945.

59. What is the poem The Whitsun Weddings about?

Ans. The poem The Whitsun Weddings by Philip Larkin is about the poet's journey to London in a train. The day is Whitsun Day on which the British Government frees marriage taxes for one day. Therefore the day fascinates people belonging to lower economic class because they cannot afford the payment of marriage taxes on other days.

60. Explain the term *Pentecost* in the context of the The Whitsun Weddings?

Ans. Whit Sunday and Whit Monday are important days in the religious calendar otherwise known as Pentecost. The Whitsun public holiday was once all important, children wore new clothes to celebrate, many children were baptised at Whit and it was a popular time for young couples to marry.

61. Explain briefly the core idea of the poem The Thought-Fox?

Ans. "The thought-fox" is a poem about writing a poem. Its external action takes place in a room late at night where the poet is sitting alone at his desk.

62. To which collection of poem does The Thought-Fox belong to?

Ans. "The Thought-Fox" appeared in Hughes's first collection of poems, *The Hawk in the Rain* (1957), and is one of his most celebrated and anthologized poems.

63. Which is the most important element in "Hawk Roosting"?

Ans. "Hawk Roosting" by Ted Hughes is a successful Dramatic Monologue in which the voice of the speaker, the Hawk, is an important element.

64. What kind of theme is explored by the poet in "Digging"? Also talk about the type of relationships seen in the poem.

Ans. "Digging" is the first poem in Seamus Heaney's first collection, "Death of a Naturalist". In this poem, the theme of heritage and family traditions is most apparent. The narrator describes two relationships in the poem, and through examination of the two relationships; one between father and son and one between grandfather and grandson, one realizes that the narrator slowly comes to accept his own family traditions.

65. Where was Seamus Heaney born?

Ans. Seamus Heaney was born in the small town of Mossbaum, in County Derry, and is considered one of the most accomplished of the "Ulster poets," or writers from Northern Ireland.

66. Name the poem and the series that exemplifies Lawrence's visualization of the animal world.

Ans. "Snake" is from the series titled "Birds, Beasts and Flowers". It exemplifies the poet's visualization of the animal world.

67. What is the literal meaning of the term "Pylons"?

Ans. The literal meaning of 'pylons' point to tall metallic posts that hold electric wires. Though they appear to be the harbinger of electricity, he feels that they are an intrusion into the peaceful countryside.

68. What does the term "**Creation**" suggest in Hughes "Hawk Roosting"?

Ans. The term "Creation" suggests a biblical reference and that the hawk is superior to even God.

69. What kind of ideology is suggested in the term 'Sophistry' in "Hawk Roosting"?

Ans. Critics have pointed out that the poem is an instance of **fascism**. By the term 'sophistry', the poet says that the physiology in his body does not abide by any rules. His way of life pertains to the tearing off of all heads; suggesting that he is also above all moral and social laws. He decides the allotment of death.

70. What is the parallel drawn in Seamus Heaney's "Digging"?

Ans. The parallel is between the act of digging in the 'field' and writing with a 'pen'. Just as his grandfather was "digging down and down for the good turf" so too Heaney will Heaney dig down and down for the good stuff that makes his poetry so exquisite.

71. What kind of poem is "Sunlight" about?

Ans. Sunlight is a modernist poem that presents an image of a woman in a bakery, illustrating a pitiful working condition that is familiar to us.

72. To whom is the poem "Sunlight" dedicated to?

Ans. The poem is taken from "NORTH", 1975 and is dedicated to Mary Heaney.

73. Name the person for whom "Bogland" was written?

Ans. The poem "Bogland" was written for TP Flanagan.

74. What does Lawrence's "Snake" exemplify?

Ans. D.H. Lawrence's "Snake" exemplifies the poet's visualization of the animal world.

76. How is man portrayed in Lawrence's "Snake"?

Ans. Far from portraying man as a product of civilized culture, he is presented as a **savage**.

77. Who is a 'subaltern'?

Ans. A subaltern in the British military is a commissioned officer ranking just below captain. The rank corresponds to lieutenant.

78. Which dictum are we reminded of in Thom Gunn's Considering the Snail?

Ans. The poem reminds one of the age-old dictum: The slow and steady wins the race.

79. Briefly state the core idea of Owen's 'Disabled'?

Ans. Owen's 'Disabled' explores the effects of war on those who live through it by comparing the present life of an injured soldier to his past hopes and accomplishments.

80. Name the creature in "Rocky Acres" that rips little things to pieces which rain down on the ground.

Ans. Eagle.

81. As per the poem "To the Indian Who Died in Africa", what are the consequences of sacrificing one's life in a war?

Ans. His noble act gets etched in the memory of his people making him immortal in his countrymen's mind and the country where he lays down his life if even it happens to be a foreign one, becomes his own land. It is this selfless action of his that would bring its own reward though they would not know of it until after their death.

82. A soldier has no home but a purpose." How far is the statement applicable in the context of the poem "To the Indian Who Died in Africa"?

Ans. The soldiers in the poem—"To the Indian Who Died in Africa", battle in a foreign land with their British allies for a common purpose. It does not matter that they are fighting the war in Africa far away from their home because a soldier is expected to fight in whichever country their duty bids them to go. If even he dies there while fighting, it does not matter because the foreign country then becomes his home in the sense that he has achieved the sublime purpose of remaining true to the creed of a soldier till his last breath.

### **General short-answer questions:**

1. What is the keynote of the inter-war poetry? Explain its significance.

Ans. The picture of the inter-war years is one of continued **uncertainty and experiment**. Auden's collection of poems entitled *the Age of Anxiety* indicates the correct condition of the poetical works. There is still no strongly established tradition to compare instability with that of the Victorian age. Thus there was the quest for stability and various attempts were being made to eradicate the inherent evils in the civilization.

2. What were the consequences brought about by the First World War?

Ans. The post-war consequences of the most hideous episode in the world's history are everywhere apparent in Great Britain in widespread unemployment, the rise of prohibitive taxes and inheritance dues, the demoralizing system of the dole, the impoverishment of the nobility and aristocracy, the dismemberment of great estates and the dispersal of such centers of culture as art collections and libraries of rare books and manuscripts. The disillusionment characteristic of much post-war literature can be traced directly to the bitter economic conditions that have resulted from the squandering of the nation's wealth in the Great War.

3. Explain the movements and counter movements in the history of contemporary poetry?

Ans. The history of contemporary poetry is the history not only of a large number of distinct, if not overpowering, talents, but of a series of movements and counter-movements of a very considerable complexity. The major counter movement was inevitably a reaction against Victorianism in poetry, in particular against the Tennysonian tradition; this counter-movement expressed itself in the antithetical directions of muscularity and aestheticism. Coincidental with the War were the so-called "**Georgian movement, the imagist movement, and the War Poetry**", which attempted to assimilate the catastrophic events of World War into the individual and social consciousness.

The post-war period has, again, being marked by a series of mutually opposed but vigorous counter-movements agreeing in nothing save their hostility to the decadent pastoralism of Georgianism, and their esoteric intellectualism and experimentalism. Of these post-war groups, the Sitwells, Robert Graves and T.S. Eliot are the energizing nuclei.

Somewhat apart from these poetic controversies stand the Irish poets and such traditional and philosophical poets as Robert Bridges, Lascelles Abercrombie, T. Sturge Moore and Gordon Bottomly.

4. Discuss Hardy's poetic art.

Ans. Hardy's poetic art is not readily available to all readers. Like Browning, although perhaps less consciously, Hardy resorted to crusty and crabbed diction and rhythms, but he was capable of intense lyricism. Every line that Hardy wrote is touched, intimately or remotely, by the view of life that is common in its essentials to all scientific determinists. And yet, his lyrical writing is varied in mood, from the sardonic humours of his satires of circumstance; terse as condensed novel-plots; to his gay or melancholy love lyrics and his microscopic studies of nature and sub-human life. The most important characteristic of his lyrics is his philosophy that carries his abstract view of life tinged with emotion.

5. Discuss Irish Poetry.

Ans. Perhaps the finest flowering of the Irish literary Renaissance was neither the drama, nor the novel, but in poetry. The richness of this poetry finds illustration in the simultaneous appearance of a large number of talents endowed radically and individually with the gift of song. In addition, the richness was enhanced both by a quickening of imagination (due to the resurgent nationalism of southern Ireland) and by the revival of medieval Irish literature, the influence of which had hitherto been restricted by its imprisonment in a tremendously difficult and little studied language. But the effects of these influences were unequal in depth and weight, since they operated upon variously gifted individual and creative temperaments and talents.

6. What are the chief tendencies of the Georgian poetry?

Ans. There are five significant tendencies of Georgian poetry. Firstly, a scholarly tradition going back to Milton and the Elizabethans, refining old themes and forms; secondly a Catholic movement with affinities to the "Metaphysicals" and other religious poets, often making use of intricate or irregular verse forms and ornate imagery; thirdly an "aesthetic" tendency owing much to the pre-Raphaelites and attracted to legend and to subtleties of verbal suggestion working often through symbolism and "dim" verbal music; fourthly, a tendency to "realistic" impressionism based on an acceptance, for imaginative purposes, of modern city life and finally a "naturalistic" reversion to the simple life of country-side, sea and open road.

7. Discuss the chief poets of the 1914-18 War.

Ans. The first great War poet was **Robert Brooke** whose poetry is essentially that of a young cultured man of leisure. Secondly, **Siegfried Sassoon** may be said to be the base of all his most worthwhile work. He painted the horrors of life and death in the trenches, dugouts and hospitals and a merciless and calculated realism gave to his work a vitality not previously found in English war poetry. Wilfred Owen was the greatest of the war poets. A gifted artist with a fine feeling for words, not a subtle rhythmic sense. He was a ceaseless experimenter in verse techniques.

8. Bring out the salient features of the Imagist poets.

Ans. The imagist poets had launched a revolt against the Georgians. Their characteristics were:

- i. To use language of common speech but to employ the exact word.
- ii. To create new rhythms as the expression of new moods.
- iii. To allow absolute freedom in the choice of subject.

- iv. To present an image, not vague generalities.
- v. To produce poetry that is hard and clear and
- vi. To aim at concentration, since concentration is the very essence of poetry.

9. Discuss T. S. Eliot as an imagist poet.

Ans. A close study of Eliot's imagery is essential to any comprehension of his work. Like the imagists, he is always concrete, and his pictures are clearly realized and based on close and accurate information. Many images, such as those of the sea, appear time and again with different effects. For example in Four Quartets the development of the poem can be traced in the changing significance of recurrent images. Eliot shows a particular fondness for metaphysical conceit with its blend of emotion and intellect.

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