



UGC-NET

English Literature

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INDEX

BRITISH LITERATURE

10. Victorian Age	1-62
11. Modern Age	63-81
12. Post Modern Age	82-109
13. Absurd Theatre	110-125
14. Noble Awardee	126-136
15. War Poets	137-146
16. Oxford Poets	147-151
17. Bible	152-157

WORLD LITERATURE

1. American Literature	158-191
2. Holocaust	192-196
3. German Literature	197-207
4. Russian Literature	208-221
5. French Literature	222-231
6. Greek Literature	232-237

Victorian Age (1837-1901)

Queen Victoria became the Queen of England in 1837.

There were change in social condition

- 1832 Reform Act
- 1837 Chartist Act
- Industrialisation, colonial attempts of England for the sake of resources. England was at the top of the world, had become super power and had more than 50 colonies.
- This was the time on various changes on various grounds
- Victorians were dealing with the problem of religious crisis. Young people didn't have faith in god and old one also were questioning on this. Because of the technical development they were losing faith.
- It was the time of high industrialisation which resulted in great unemployment.

- England controlled more than 50 countries and 700 islands.
- The rise of science Charles Darwin came with his theory of Origin of species 1859 which is called the survival of the fittest

This inspired lots of writers to go for crime fiction novel, also known as 'Newgate Novels'

Benjamin Disraeli he started a group called 'Silver Fork School'. This were the group of writers, writing for aristocratic class and Benjamin in his famous work 'Sybil' talked about two nations. He said that England having two nations inside one which is very rich and the one is very poor.

- Youth was losing faith in God that's why Victorian senior writers professors of theology they thought it is mandatory to bring faith in youth so they started 'Oxford Movement' also known as Tractarian Movement.
- It was the time Italian Renaissance inspired Victorians like Robert Browning, Arnold and Lady Browning.
- Condition of women in Victorian - Victorian labour loss which made women work for more time, less paid, their wages were given to their husbands.
- Victorians or England they had set up companies in many countries like India, Australia, Canada and other countries. They were colonising these countries and took control.
- In England they started getting cheap labour because they transported African, Indian labours at cheap cost.

• Arnold showed the passive or darkest side of the Victorians and Browning showed the bright and positive side of this age.

Then Tennyson showed the fine blending of Victorian's positivity and negativity.

• 1832 Reform Act - Victorians for the first time set electoral system. But the voting rights were given to the rich people with Land Rights. Then this act is reformed in 1837 also known as the Chartist Act where the voting rights were given to the poor class also and the man without land. But the voting right is not given to the labourers and slaves.

And voting right to the woman is given in 1920, Suffrage movement.

Oxford Movement

This movement is also known as 'Tractarian Movement'. Few professors of Oxford University like John Henry Newman and Edward Pugin, the clerics and the professor of Theology. They decided to launch a movement to re-support the religion and this is the reason John Henry Newman is called the intellectual father of Oxford movement. Newman and Edward wrote lots of pamphlets it supported Anglo-Catholicism. They were of the view that Victorian advancement and development was actually the result of God. Because God has chosen the white race as their weapon or deserving people that is why they were reforming the rest of the countries.

When Henry Newman and Edward started writing pamphlets and tract, their long religious pamphlets were called tract, this is the reason it is called 'Tractarian Movement'.

This movement was also supported by John Cable, Edward Marsh and other writers. The immediate result of Oxford movement was that theological studies were re-introduced in Oxford University, Cambridge University and in schools.

Earlier in private school Theological studies were banned, only classical literature were studied. Then unnecessary rights were given to the Popes were confiscated. The concept of Divine Right came to an end.

Lord Alfred Tennyson

Born 1809-1892

Father of Victorian literature

Why he is called Father of Victorian lit.
Because Victorian literature was divided into two parts. The writers supporting optimism like Browning and writers supporting pessimism like Arnold. It is Tennyson where we can find positivity and negativity mixed together.

Tennyson became famous in his school timing when he wrote the poem Timbucto and got Chancellor's Medal.

He was the longest Poet Laureate after Wordsworth.

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Ulysses

dramatic monologue

written in 1842. greatest warrior of the Trojan War.

Ulysses is an old man sitting with his aged wife near the hearth and he talks about his brave deeds.

He was a Greek warrior who fought in a battle of Troy and played a vital role in defeating Trojans. But when Trojans were defeated Ulysses came back to his country or his kingdom called 'Ithaca'. But Ulysses and his commanders and other soldiers lost their way in the sea and next ten years he kept on wandering in the sea.

So he came back to his wife he became very old and he said I am Ulysses I have done lots of impossible task I have killed demons, kings and many legendary kings and I can't die like this. My end should not be sitting next to my wife. So he called his people to go for another journey he says our life is of a hero we are not common people.

"It is never too late to seek a new world"

"How dull it is to be unburnished
to make a pause not to shine in use"

Opening lines

"I am the part of everything I have met"

He says we will go for another journey, will go for another land, will discover it my wife Penelope and my son Telemachus will take care of the kingdom Ithaca.

This poem gives the example of Victorian positivity.

'Tithonus'

Tithonus

It is a dramatic monologue. There is a handsome boy Tithonus. He is loved by a goddess and he asks goddess to give him one boon. Goddess says you can ask for any boon but that will be the only boon. He says I want to be immortal and goddess makes him immortal but when Tithonus asks to be immortal he forgets to mention to be young forever

When the poem starts Tithonus is already of 400 years. He is very old his skin is touching the ground he is not able to walk and the dramatic monologue starts he says that one should not try to exceed the limits if god doesn't want us we should not do that.

This poem shows pessimism

'Lotos Eater' 1842

Lotos Eater

It is Ulysses, still wandering in the sea after many months they have seen land and he asks his comrade to sail faster. He says 'courage' and he pointed towards the shore. When they go to the island they were very hungry and they found a plant looks like a lotus they started eating it and the writer says that the plant of lotus was actually the plant of opium. So opium's effect made them drowsy they became half conscious

and they started celebrating the time of laziness they said why we should work hard all we know that we have to die. We should enjoy now and should not go back to our homes.

First word of the poem is 'Courage'

Last line of this poem

No we are Men

better than other races and we have responsibilities we have our posterity waiting for us we have to create history for them and they start their journey once again.

'In Memoriam'

It is a long poem in memoriam where Tennyson took 17 years to complete this. It is written on the death of his best friend Arthur Henry Hallam.

In this poem ^{collection} there is a small poem

Break, Break, Break - in this poem he is standing at the beach at the shore of

the term 'Objective Co-relative' was coined by Washington Allston. T.S. Eliot talked about objective co-relative in his essay 'Hamlet and his Problems'

Ocean looking towards the waves when the waves are thrusting themselves on the rocks
Tennyson becomes happy that the waves are also angry and by thrusting themselves by the rocks they are showing their anger.

This is the example of objective co-relative where the inner emotions are mixed with the outer emotion existence of nature.

Lady of Shalott

Defence of Lucknow

Princess - 1847 - he talks about the emancipation of women

Tennyson has written 2-3 dramas -
Becket

Harold

The Cup

Queen Mary

Victorian positivity is inspired by -
August Comte - Father of Positivism.

Robert Browning (1812-1889)

Browning became famous when he read
poetries of Elizabeth Barrett Browning
and he fell in love with her. He went
and told her that your poetries touched
my heart. After the courtship of six months
where Elizabeth Barrett's cousin helped
them to be together. They eloped and
went to Italy. She is six years elder to
him. People wanted Robert to be the
Poet laureate but he denied and asked them
to make Poet laureate his wife for she deserves
more.

* My Last Duchess

It is a dramatic monologue.

It is a kind of work that deals with
Italian Renaissance (dealing with poetry,
painting etc.)

Tragedy in five words -

"And All Smiles Stopped Together"

* Andrea Del Sarto

It is a story of a painter who has been deceived by his wife.

"My Moon My Everybody's moon
Everybody looks at her and calls his"

• English title - Call the Faultless Painter

* Prospice

line -

"I was ever a fighter so one fight more
the best and the last"

* Last Ride Together

optimistic poem

opening lines -

"Fail I alone in the words and deeds
All man strive and who succeed"

Thomas Rhymur coined the term 'Poetic Justice'

* Rosphyria's Lover

In this poem a lover kills his beloved by wrapping his pony tail around her neck thrice.

It deals with the supremacy or spirituality of love.

Pied Piper of Hamelin - poetic justice
famous line

"In that city there were rats
who fought with dogs and
killed the cats."

took babies out of the cradle

Fra Lippo Lippi

Rabbi Ben Ezra

} deals with Italian
Renaissance

Pythagorean's Funeral

deals with teacher and student relation.

Students takes his dead body on top of the mountain for cremation because he dedicated his life after knowledge so he is not common man