

QUESTION BANK

PROSE

I BA

I SEMESTER

UNIT – I

2 Mark

1. Of studies –

Francis bacon

1. How many types of studies have been suggested by Francis bacon in his essay ‘Of Studies’?

Bacon suggests three types of studies; one that serve for delight, the second for ornament, and the third for ability.

2. What are the various uses of studies according to Bacon in his essay ‘Of Studies’?

Studies are a source of delight in one’s leisure time and solitude. They also have an ornamental value. Studies help to develop ones ability to judge, interpret what is right what is wrong.

3. Who are the three types of men that Bacon mentions in this essay ‘Of Studies’?

Bacon felt that there are three types of men. They are reasonably straightforward and require very small thought. He expressed, “crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them”.

4. How one should read books according to Bacon?

One should read a book so that one can think carefully about what is said in it and draw conclusion and then judge its value.

5. What are the different physical cures suggested by Bacon?

Bacon suggests right method of physical exercise than can cure defects of the body, in the same way studies cure mental defects. Bowling is good for the kidneys, shooting is good for the lungs and walking is good for the digestion

2. Books - John Milton

6. What is Areopagitica about?

Areopagitica is a pamphlet written by John Milton. It is a noble and impassioned plea for the liberty of the Press. The essay is an argument in favour of freedom of expression and against censorship.

7. How does Milton accept with some of the principles of the nation and the church?

Milton is in agreement with the nation and church on their concern and casting a vigilant eye on books that demean themselves as well as men.

8. What is a 'good book' according to Milton?

'A good book is the precious lifeblood of a masterpiece, embalmed and treasured up on a purpose to a life beyond life', says Milton

9. What is the 'fifth essence' that Milton points to in his essays 'Books'?

All material things were believed to be composed of the four elements – earth, air, fire and water. The fifth element was supposed to be the spiritual component.

10. What compelled Milton to write the pamphlet Areopagitica?

When Milton composed pamphlets on the subject 'divorce', he was criticized on a technical matter by pointing out that he had not licensed the books, as required by law. To this Milton retorted with the greatest vigour in his pamphlet Areopagitica.

UNIT – II

3. Periodical Essay – Joseph Addison

11. What is a periodical?

Periodical is a term to describe any repeating series of literary journals, magazines or review. The single – essay publication, best represented by Richard Steele and Joseph Addison's Spectator had immeasurable literary influence until the end of the 18th century.

12. What is the essay 'Periodical Essays' about?

The essay is a satire upon those who are proud of producing voluminous books. Addison highlights the importance of periodical essays in which a great deal of thought can be put together in a much better way than in a lengthy book.

13. How are periodical essays much better than a lengthy book?

The periodical essays immediately fall into their subject and every part of it is treated in a lively manner.

14. How should be a periodical essay according to Addison?

Every sheet of the periodical essay should be a kind of treatise. A point of humour should be worked up on all its parts. The subject touched upon in its most essential articles, should be without the repetitions and enlargements, remarks Addison.

15. How does Addison criticize the men who threw away his periodicals?

Addison criticizes the men who have thrown away his works as people 'of no taste or learning'.

4. The Spectator Club – Richard Steele

16. Write a brief account of Sir Roger.

Sir Roger is a man of singular characteristics and eccentricities which are both odd and endearing. He is a man whose fashionable posture underwent a sea – change after his disappointment in love.

17. How is the character of the clergyman described by Steele?

The Clergyman is a very philosophic character. He used to attend the club meetings rarely. He is a well educated and a pious man.

18. How is the character of Sir Andrew Freeport described by Steele?

Sir Andrew Freeport is a successful merchant and an experienced businessman. He refutes the idea of expanding national boundaries through war, but believes in expansion through art and industry.

19. Who is Captain Sentry and what type of person is he?

Captain Sentry, 'a gentleman of great courage, good understanding, but invincible modesty' is another striking portrait. Having a store of military adventures to relate at his disposal he too is an interesting conversationalist.

20. How does Steele present the members of the 'Spectator Club'?

In presenting the members of the 'Spectator Club', Steele reveals his keen power of observation. He presents the characters with different 'humours'. His style is easy and informal. The comic effect that is created by Steele makes this essay a classic in its own right.

UNIT - III

5. On Going A Journey – William Hazlitt

21. What is the pleasant thing Hazlitt wishes to do? How?

Hazlitt says that 'one of the pleasant things in the world is going on a journey'. He wishes to go alone. He points out that he can enjoy the society in a room, but out of doors nature is his company.

22. How does Hazlitt wish to enjoy his journey?

Hazlitt wishes to lead on idle and aimless life in a country side and forget the town life. The soul of his journey, he says is perfect liberty, to think, feel, do just as one pleases.

23. What is the purpose of taking a journey according to Hazlitt?

For Hazlitt, the purpose of taking journey is to be free from all obstructions and of all inconveniences and to get rid of others. He wants a little breathing space to think on different matters.

24. How does Hazlitt want to enjoy nature?

Hazlitt wants to enjoy the nature of the countryside, the clear blue sky, the green turf and the winding road and play some solo games. After three hours of strolling the writer wants to eat delicious food followed by thinking.

25. Mention the books that Hazlitt found in the various inns he had visited?

Hazlitt says that he found some pleasant books like Paul and Virginia and Fanny Burney's Camilla in an inn.

6. Dream Children; A Reverie – Charles Lamb

26. Justify the title of the essay ‘Dream Children; A Reverie’.

Dream Children is the reverie of a man who was intensely human and whose life was a tragedy. ‘Reverie’ means day dreaming.

27. Write a short note on the great grand – mother Field’s mansion.

The great grand – mother Field lived in a great house in Norfolk. The most interesting fact about this house was that the whole story of the ‘children in the Wood’ was curved in wood upon the chimney – piece of the great wall.

28. Write an account of Lamb’s grandmother, Mary Field.

Great grand – mother Field was not the real owner of the house in which she lived but her behavior and manners, and her religious devotions were so great that she was respected by everyone.

29. How was the great grand – mother in her younger days?

Lamb told the children about their great grandmother’s youth. In her younger days she was regarded as the best dancer in the country. But she was attacked by cancer, and that desisted her from dancing any further.

30. How does Lamb narrate to his imaginary children about Alice Winterton whom he courted?

Lamb told the dream children how he patiently courted the fair Alice Winterton for seven long years. As he was relating these experiences of his, he suddenly felt that the eyes of that old Alice were gazing from the face of the little Alice, sitting before him.

UNIT – IV

7. An Apology For Idlers – R.L. Stevenson

31. Mention some of the activities in which the idlers are supposed to be involved.

Not attending school, roaming in the streets, going to the gardens in the suburbs, smoking pipes, listening to birds’ singing are some of the activities of idlers.

32. Why does the author support those students who play truant from their schools?

The students who play truants at school learn several lessons of wisdom and commonsense while walking in the streets.

33. What are the places where a young man can go after running away from school without permission?

A young man after running away from school without permission, will go to streets, to the country side garden, to the lake side, to the green fields and other places of nature.

34. What kind of wisdom and common sense does the idler gain by studying life at large?

An idler by studying life learns the ‘palpitating facts of life’. He learns some really useful art, namely to play the fiddle, to speak with ease, etc.

35. What is the moral of the essay?

The moral of the essay is that one should not be tied down to dogmatic formalities only, but should get some time to learn through informal means too.

8. The Pleasures of Ignorance

36. How does Lynd point out our ignorance of nature?

Lynd observes that we are amazed at the vastness of our ignorance when we go to countryside. Most of us do not know the difference between a beech tree and an elm and we are also unable to distinguish the song of a thrush from a song of a bird.

37. What reason does Lynd identify for our ignorance?

When we do not know the difference between trees and songs of various birds, it is because we have not noticed them, remarks Lynd. Our observation of nature is feeble that we remain ignorant of many things, point out the author.

38. Why was re – learning and re – reading give us pleasure?

We sometimes, even scholars re – read a book because of this bad memory. We re –read books for accuracy also. Every re – reading brings with it a new information, a fresh thought. The author himself has re – read books like Shakespeare’s Hamlet and Dicken’s The Pickwick Papers, just to derive pleasure out of them.

39. What is the greatest joy known to man, according to Lynd?

Lynd declares that ‘one of the greatest joys known to man is to take such a flight into ignorance in search of knowledge’. ‘The great pleasure of ignorance, is, after all, the pleasure of asking questions’, says Lynd.

40. Does the naturalist find pleasure in observing the life of birds? If so, why?

Lynd says that the naturalists’ profession is to observe birds, which is their routine work. But they too derive pleasure on observing the activities of birds. There is a steady pleasure, walking seriously in a forest to take note of every new thing, they come across, writes Lynd.

UNIT – V

9. One the Rule Of The Road – A.G. Gardiner

41. When will individual liberty become social anarchy?

‘If everybody would be getting in everybody else’s way then nobody would get anywhere’. Remarks Gardiner. In that case individual liberty would become social anarchy (disorder) says the author. There is the danger of the world getting affected by too much freedom, he cautions.

42. Explain liberty as social a contract.

‘Liberty is not a personal affair only, but a social contract’, says Gardiner. It accommodates our interests, one is at liberty as long as it doesn’t touch anybody else’s liberty. One can sleep, dress, eat, follow a religion, according to his wishes, marry a girl of his choice, etc.

43. Write some of our personal liberties.

One has the freedom to dress according to his wishes and eat according to his taste and preference. One has the liberty to go to sleep late midnight and get up early as he fancies. One may follow a religion of his device, he could marry a dark lady, a fair lady as to his liking. These are all some of our personal liberties, that we enjoy.

44. Whose rights Gardiner says are to be preserved?

It is not only the rights of small and quiet people that are important and to be preserved but also the rights of small nationalities that have to be respected. Gardiner hits at Germany for its violent act of crushing like a bully over the small country Belgium.

45. When do we consider ourselves to be civilized or uncivilized?

Gardiner observes that it is in the small matters of conduct, for instance, in the observance of the rule of the road, that we pass judgment upon ourselves, and declare that we are civilized or uncivilized. It is our public relationship between persons that make up the great sum of life, says the author.

10. On Finding Things – E.V.Lucas

46. What were the things picked up by Lucas after an interval of several years?

After an interval of several years, Lucas found successively a carriage key in Royal Hospital Road, a brooch in Church Road, Kensington and six – pence in a third class compartment.

47. What were the things found by Lucas during various stages of his life?

Lucas says that when he was about seven years old he had found a brown – paper packet containing eight pennies and one half – penny, on the grass in the New Forest. When he was about twenty he found a half – dollar piece at Brighton and after a long time he picked up a gold brooch.

48. What is the difference between finding things and to look for things, according to Lucas?

Lucas says that to look for things is to change the whole concept of finding things, that would rob it of its divine suddenness. To look for things is to become anxious and even greedy. It is the nature of the rag – pickers who look out for things with their bent heads.

49. What was Lucas do with the gold brooch he had found?

Lucas considered the gold brooch a valuable one that should not be owned by the finder. Hence he surrendered the gold brooch in the police station. But it so happened that it was returned to him by the police as there were no one to claim ownership of it.

50. How does a gift differ from finding a thing by oneself?

With a gift intention, consciousness, preparation come in, says Lucas, whereas the special quality of the act of finding something, with its consequent thrill, is half unexpectedness and half separateness. There being no warning, and the article

coming to you by chance, no one is to be thanked, no one to be owed anything, points out the author.

5 Mark

1. How do studies serve man according to Bacon?
2. What are the disadvantages of studies according to Bacon?
3. Write an account on Bacon's epigrammatic style.
4. What is Areopaitica? What were the circumstances that led the writer Milton to come out with the pamphlet?
5. How does Milton concur with the decision of the government on publishing books?
6. Write an account on the prose style of Milton.
7. Why does Addison reject the voluminous works?
8. How does Addison explain the importance of the periodicals?
9. Give an account of Addison's style.
10. How does the Spectator describe Sir Roger de Coverley?
11. Write a short note on character of Captain Sentry.
12. How does Steele describe about Will Honeycomb?
13. Write an account on the purpose and enjoyment of Hazlitt's journey.
14. What pleasures does Hazlitt derive in the inns while going on a journey?
15. Where does Hazlitt want to go in company during a journey?
16. How does Lamb describe Mrs. Field, the great grand-mother and the house in which she lived?
17. Discuss the element of pathos in the essay 'Dream Children'.
18. Write a brief note on the auto – biographical element in the essay 'Dream Children'.
19. What is the resentment of hard workers?
20. How can a truant educate himself?
21. How does an idler learn from nature?
22. Describe the nature of busy people.
23. Write an account of our ignorance on nature pointed out by Lynd.
24. Why Lynd says that there is nothing to worry about our ignorance?
25. How do people construe the meaning of liberty in life according to Gardiner?
26. 'Liberty is not a personal affair only, but a social contract'. Explain.
27. Describe the experiences of Lucas of the things he had found.
28. How are the innocent people beguiled by the tricksters?
29. What difference does Lucas point out between finding things and looking for things?
30. Write an account on Lucas's prose style.

10 Mark

UNIT - I

1. Discuss Bacon as the father of the English Essay with reference to his essay 'Of Studies'

Introduction:

Bacon – father of English essay – “dispersed meditations” – not to preach ideal morality – give valuable guidance – practical life. Aphoristic kind – important in man’s life.

The usefulness of studying:

Opening sentence – ‘Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability’ – useful in these three ways – source of delight in one’s leisure time and solitude - happiness to people – ornamental value – decorate the talk of people in their conversation - men of letters and wisdom

Three types of men:

Reasonably straightforward and require diminutive thought – Crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them.

The disadvantage of studies

Points out certain disadvantages of studies to surprise of the readers – spend too much of time or waste our time – theoretical aspects instead of applying our knowledge – life situations.

Subjects that improve man’s intellectual capacity

One should read a book – can think carefully – draw conclusion and then judge its value. Different books – different impact on the reader – history makes a man wise – men’s imagination broaden by poetry – mathematics – man’s mind keen and subtle – unstable minds – to debate and argue – rhetoric and argue – unable to retrieve references and illustrations – clarify his arguments

Conclusion:

Inform us the benefits of studying – applying the mind to learning and understanding the subject – reading – persuade – to study and tell us – best way what we read – master of aphoristic essay – history of English essay “Bacon is the first and the greatest”.

2. Milton’s essay ‘Books’ is a noble and impassioned plea for the liberty of the Press. Explain.

Introduction:

Extract from Milton’s prose work ‘Areopagitica. – argument - favour of freedom of expression and against censorship of books – imitates – Areopagiticus – Athenian orator Isocrates – address to the council – met on the Areopagus in Athenia.

The circumstances that led to the writing of the pamphlet:

June 14,1643 – English Parliament – law called the Licensing order – required all books – an official censor before publication – November 23,1644 – Areopagitica – repeal of the law – argument were not successful.

Milton's acceptance of licensing books:

Deny the concern and the greatest importance for the religion and nation have a watchful eye on the books – absolutely dead things - licensing authorities to follow the selective history of licensing.

Good books need no deletion or destruction:

the book licensing authorities to be cautious in their labour – censoring good book is equal to killing the man – i.e killing a reasonable creature, a God's image – destroys a good book, kills reason itself.

Good book – defined:

Leading a useful life – ‘a good book is the precious lifeblood of a master – spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life’

Conclusion:

Vehemently attacks – the official censorship of books – vogue in the middle of the seventeenth century – love for books and the freedom of press – quite evident in the extract ‘Books’. Classical argumentative structure. Cleverness and logic – uses to persuade his contemporary lawmakers.

3. Describe the satire and humour of Addison in his essay ‘Periodical Essays’.

Introduction:

Literary reputation rests upon the essay from The Spectator – humorist of high rank – makes one smile, rather than laugh aloud – “Periodical Essays” satire upon the writers who are proud of publishing voluminous books – curious blend of humour and satire

Satire upon voluminous writers:

Mild satire – infinite advantage – one who write in single pieces – the bulk writer – prepare the reader by way of some introduction – a kind of rule – established by such authors - voluminous writers – aware – severe readers – at times become dull or make allowances for many rests while reading.

The significance of periodicals

First paragraph – disadvantage of bulk books – humourously points – disadvantages – separate sheets -

- 4.