

8. Novels, Society and History

Check Point 01

1. Question

Name the author of the novel 'Pamela'.

Answer

The author of the novel "PAMELA" is Samuel Richardson. He wrote the novel in the year 1740.

Explanation: Samuel Richardson was an English writer and a printer. This novel narrates a story about a beautiful girl who was treated as a maidservant by the landowner Andrews. He tried to suppress her and exploit her mentally and physically.

2. Question

Name some famous novelist of the 19th century.

Answer

Some famous novelists of the 19th century are Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte and Thomas Hardy.

Explanation: 1) Jane Austen: She was the 1st great English woman novelist. She wrote Pride and Prejudice, Emma etc.

2) Charles Dickens: Greatest English novelist of his time. He wrote David Copperfield, Oliver Twist.

3) Emily Bronte: She has an important position in English history novels. She wrote Wuthering Heights.

4) Thomas Hardy: A novelist with a familiar realism of the Victorian Novel.

3. Question

How did the serialisation of novels increase the popularity of novels and magazines?

Answer

The serialisation of novels increased the popularity of novels and magazines as it was cheap and affordable.

Explanation: People started discussing them on the day to day basis. People found joy in reading them and visualising them. They started living with the characters for months.

4. Question

What was the role of earlier novels for promoting colonialism in Europe?

Answer

Novels played an important role in promoting colonialism in Europe. They depicted the knowledge of social customs.

Explanation: It helped the Britishers to learn about the divisions based on castes and class. All of this proved to be beneficial in promoting Colonialism.

Check Point 02

1. Question

Name the earlier writer, who had a story in prose in the Sanskrit language.

Answer

Banabhatta was a writer in Sanskrit in the 7th century. He was the Asthana Kavi in the court of King Harsha Vardhana. Some of his important works include Kadambari, Harshcharita, etc.

2. Question

What were the main features of the novel Sewasadan?

Answer

Sewasadan was a novel written by PremChand in 1919. The main features of the novel included the exploitation of women and their poor condition in society, the prevalence of child marriage and dowry in social customs, the upper hand of the rich classes on the poor and how they exploited their rights and opportunities.

3. Question

Name the first Hindi modern novel which was a best-seller. Why was it so popular?

Answer

The first Hindi modern novel which was a bestseller was Chandrakanta by Devaki Nandan Khatri in the year 1888. It became so popular because it was a romantic novel.

Explanation: The novel had many magical and radiant elements of fantasy. People found pleasure in reading the novel which made it famous.

4. Question

Why was the translation of novels so important?

Answer

Translation of novels was important because novels were written in a different language which was difficult for many people who were not familiar with the language. Therefore in order to reach the higher masses they were translated.

Explanation: Also, many British people translated Indian novels in English because they liked the story and wanted their people to read about them.

Check Point 03

1. Question

Name the Kannada novel which has a clear message of social reform.

Answer

Indirabai was the novel written in Kannada by Glavadi Venkantu in the year 1899.

Explanation: It tells the story of a widow who got married in a very young age to an elderly man who dies.

2. Question

How did the social novelist of India accept modernism without rejecting tradition?

Answer

Social novelists faced a dilemma of accepting modernism without affecting traditional values. They, therefore, created characters like Indulekha as a woman of breathtaking beauty, high intellectual abilities, artistic talent, and with an education in English and Sanskrit and Madhavan, who used to dress in Western clothes, but, at the same time, kept a long tuft of hair, according to the Nayar custom. These characters showed readers how Indian and foreign lifestyles could be brought together in an ideal combination.

3. Question

Who was Kalki? What do you know about his style of writing?

Answer

Kalki or R.Krishnamurthy was a very prominent author of Tamil. He was famous for writing historical novels.

Explanation: His writing style was very simple and he wrote in a language easily understood by readers. He wrote novels based on adventures and heroism.

4. Question

Name some writers who wrote about the social economic and political condition of their region.

Answer

Some writers who wrote about the socio and political conditions of their region were:

Explanation: a) Charles Dickens – He wrote about the after-effects of industrialization in the society.

b) Jane Austen – She emphasized the practice of child marriage and dowry

c) Munshi Premchand- He wrote about the differences in the upper and lower caste.

Check Point 04

1. Question

Who wrote the popular novel called Karuna o phulmonir Bibaran?

Answer

This popular Bengali novel was written by Hannah Mullen in the year 1852.

Explanation: She wrote this novel secretly. The novel was written to preach the message of Christians.

2. Question

Is it correct to say that women remained a mere reader of novels written by men?

Answer

No it is not correct as they read the novels written by female authors as well. They were very inspired and encouraged by the female authors.

Explanation: For example; the novels of Jane Austen encouraged them to raise their voice and be independent.

3. Question

Who is the central character of Rangbhoomi written by Premchand?

Answer

The central character of Rangbhoomi was Surdas. He was a visually impaired beggar.

Explanation: The whole story revolves around the land issues of Surda's land. He belongs to an untouchable caste. The story focuses on the struggle of Surdas to get back his land which was taken away from him forcibly.

4. Question

What is the main theme of novel Godan written by Munshi Premchand?

Answer

The novel Godan is a tragic novel having a setup of a rural India. It depicts the deplorable conditions of an Indian peasant whose life was under the social and economic crisis.

Explanation: The story involves around a poor peasant named Hori and his family who are under the exploitation of moneylenders, and other government authorities.

Self Assessment

1. Question

Which was the first historical novel written in Bengal?

Answer

The first novel written in Bengal was Durgeshnandini by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in the year 1865. The novel was written in a different tone with a new maturity.

2. Question

What makes the core theme of Emile Zola's novel 'Germinal'?

Answer

Emile Zola's novel Termini was written about the effects of the industrial revolution.

It was about a young miner. It describes the oppression and poverty faced by them and their worsening condition.

3. Question

Name the author of the novel 'Ghare Baire'.

Answer

Ghare Baire was written by Ravindra Nath Tagore in the year 1916. It was written in the Bengali language.

Explanation: It describes the dilemma of Ravindra Nath, of his clustered thoughts and ideas of western culture and his opposition towards the same.

4. Question

Who is regarded as the pioneer of modern Hindi literature?

Answer

Bharatendu Harishchandra was the pioneer of modern Hindi literature.

Explanation: He was one of the important pillars of other novelists as he always encouraged them to create and translate novels from other languages.

5. Question

Whose writing in Hindi made novel-reading public?

Answer

Writings of Devaki Nandan Khatri in Hindi made novel reading public. It was his novel named Chandrakanta which had an interesting subject of romance that created an interest among the readers and made the novel popular.

6. Question

What do you mean by 'Bhatiali'?

Answer

Bhatiali is a form of folk music in both Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Explanation: It is known as a river song mostly sung by boatman while going down the river stream.

7. Question

In which book Charles Dickens told us the story of a poor orphan who lived in a world of petty criminals and beggars?

Answer

Charles Dickens wrote Oliver Twist in the year 1838 that described a poor orphan who lived in a world full of petty criminals and beggars.

Explanation: This novel focussed on the terrible condition of urban life under the industrial capitalism.

8. Question

Write the theme of the novel 'pride and prejudice' in brief.

Answer

Pride and Prejudice was a novel written by Jane Austen. The novel helped women by introducing the ideas of powerful and independent thinking. It gave women a new identity and helped in recognizing their strengths.

Explanation: The main theme of the novel was of marriage and money. It depicted how women have to always look presentable and good in order to find a good match for marriage. It focused on finding a wealthy husband with good status and reputation.

9. Question

What were the advantages of vernacular novels?

Answer

Vernacular novels had many advantages. Firstly, they were written in the language which was easily understood by a common man. People used to read them individually as well as in groups too.

These novels were written in different styles of languages. The authors wrote them in classical languages and combined them with the language of the street to make them readable by everyone.

10. Question

Novels of Charles Dickens deal with which changes of 19th century Britain?

Answer

Charles Dickens novels were about the various changes occurring in the society during that period of time. He wrote about the terrible effects of industrialization on people

His novels dealt with the poor conditions of peasants in society. The changes that were leading to unemployment in youth and child labour.

11. Question

How did serialisation of novel increase the popularity of novels and magazines?

Answer

Serialisation of novels helped the readers to be more excited and created suspense about the next episode.

It built an interest in them which made the novels.

12. Question

What do you know about Rokeya Hossein's writings?

Answer

She was known for writing with a different purpose. Her novel "Sultan's dream" is a novel whose story is a convoluted place where both the genders switch places men take the role of women and women to take the role of men.

Explanation: Her theme of novels revolved around women that they should speak against the injustice done to them. The women should be strong and independent and always think to be as capable as men.

13. Question

Explain any three main values associated with the novels of the eighteenth century.

Answer

Novels written in the eighteenth century dealt with various aspects of society. It described social problems, various political and cultural aspects. The three main values associated were:

Explanation: a) Firstly, novels written were focussed on the freedom for women.

b) It described the exploitation of common people and the need to stop it.

c) The novels aroused the need to understand the relationship between love and marriage and the proper conduct for men and women.

14. Question

How did novel help in intermingling of Indian with western culture?

Answer

Social novelists faced the dilemma of accepting modernism without affecting traditional values. They, therefore, created characters like Indulekha as a woman of breathtaking beauty, high intellectual abilities, artistic talent, and with an education in English and Sanskrit and Madhavan, who used to dress in Western clothes, but, at the same time, kept a long tuft of hair, according to the Nayar custom. These characters showed readers how Indian and foreign lifestyles could be brought together in an ideal combination

15. Question

How did the novel Sewasadan help in moulding the minds of the common people?

Answer

Sewasadan was one of the most influential novels written by Munshi Premchand in the year 1916. It had a message depicting the lives of common people and their social issues.

Explanation: The novel highlighted various issues like child marriage and dowry prevalent in society. It explained the practices of exploitation done by rich on poor and also women. By reading the novels, people got aware of how to deal with various problems.

16. Question

'Drawn from various strata of society, Munshi Premchand's character create a community based on democratic value'. Substantiate this statement with two examples from any of his novels.

Answer

Munshi Premchand had the art of traditional storytelling. He was a very influential author. His novels are filled with major impacting characters inspired by society. He made a community based on democratic value by engaging and emphasising the disparity between the rich and the poor. Also, He makes the lives of the most oppressed section of society as worthy of literary reflection.

To explain this further the two examples are:

- a) He wrote Sewasadan, a bold statement on the political and religious debate about child marriage and dowry system prevalent in the society. It depicts the ways in which the Indian upper classes used their power they got from colonial authorities to govern them
- b) In Premchand's Karmabhumi the social issues were discussed how political influences created differences among the family and had a great impact so far as the creation of social awareness was concerned.

17. Question

How were the effects of 'Industrial Revolution' reflected in the novels?

Answer

The effects of the Industrial Revolution were strongly depicted in the novels. When the face of Industrialization started, many factories were established. The businesses earned profits, but eventually, all this became a problem for the workers. They were overworked and unpaid.

Explanation: Cities expanded themselves in an unregulated way. Deeply moved by all this Charles Dickens wrote about the devastating effects of industrialization. In his novels, he criticized peoples need for profits and also depicting the use of humans as being selfish and an instrument for producing.

The novel of Charles Dickens 'Hard Times' describes an imaginary industrial town as a gloomy town polluted with soles from chimneys. His novel 'Oliver Twist' tells a story of a poor orphan not who lived in a world full of beggars and criminals.

18. Question

How did the novel explore and depict the worlds of women? Explain by giving three examples.

Answer

During the period of 18th-century women also participated in reading the novels. The readership among women increased rapidly. This happened because the middle-class society became stable and women had leisure time which they started utilising by reading novels.

Explanation: Following are the three examples:

- a) Jane Austen wrote a novel that encourages women to be independent. By reading such novels, they thought highly of them and became more confident.
- b) Charlotte Bronte too was an English writer whose novels had a message describing women who broke establishing norms of society before adjusting to them.
- c) Women with their own experiences wrote about their domestic family life and their emotions. They also described and thought about their Identities, experience and problems. They became more vocal and expressive.

19. Question

What kind of life is depicted in the novel 'Titash Nadir Naam'?

Answer

It was a novel written by Advaita Malls Burnaby in 1956. The novel is written about Mallas, a fisherman community in Bengal.

Explanation: The life is depicted as they had great relationships and friendships among themselves. They celebrated Holi and Kali Poona with great festivity. They took part in boat races. But they had their problems and oppressions with peasants and other upper caste related problems. The novels emphasise the separation of their community and finally breaking which ended their Malla community. This novel is related to the author because he himself belonged to this community.

20. Question

How can we say that stories and prose were not new to Indian society?

Answer

There are many examples to prove that stories and prose were not new to India. Banbhata's Kadambri novel was written in Sanskrit in the 7th century.

The stories of Panchatantra are also one example that shows that the art of writing stories and prose is an ancient one. In Indian novels, many words were taken from Urdu languages and stories. Many English language words were written in the same language without translating it into the English language.