

## Short Answer Questions

### Q. 1. How did novels take its first and firm root in England and France?

**Ans. (i)** New groups of lower middle class people like shopkeepers and clerks, along with traditional aristocratic gentlemanly classes in England and France now became new readers of novels.

**(ii)** As readership grew, the market for books expanded and the earnings of authors increased.

**(iii)** This gave them independence to experiment with different literary styles.

In this way, most of the early and different styles of novels were written in England and France with an increased readership.

### Q. 2. What were the advantages of vernacular novels?

**Ans. (i)** They were written in the language of the common people.

**(ii)** By coming closer to the different spoken languages of the people, the novel produced a sense of shared world between diverse people in a nation.

**(iii)** Novels may take a classical language and combine it with the languages of the streets and can make them all a part of the vernacular that is used.

**(iv)** Novels bring together many cultures.

### Q. 3. How did novels assist in the spread of silent reading?

**Ans. (i)** By the late 19th century and early 20th century, written texts were often read aloud for several people to hear. Sometimes, novels were also read in this way, but in general, novels encouraged reading alone and in silence.

**(ii)** Individuals sitting at home or travelling in trains enjoyed them.

**(iii)** Even in a crowded room, the novel offered a special world of imagination into which the reader could slip into, and be all alone.

In this way, reading a novel was more like daydreaming.

### Q. 4. How did women get involved in the writing of novels?

**Ans.** The 18th century saw the middle classes become more prosperous, so women got more leisure time to read as well as write novels.

Novels also began exploring the world of women—their emotions and identities, their experiences and problems.

Many novels were about domestic life—a theme about which women were allowed to speak with authority.

**Q. 5. How did early novels contribute to colonialism?**

**Ans.** The novel originated in Europe at a time when it was colonising the rest of the world. The early novel contributed to colonialism by making the readers feel that they were part of a superior community of fellow colonialists. On the other hand, Indian novelists wrote to develop a modern literature for the country that could produce a sense of national belongingness and cultural equality with their colonial masters.

**Q. 6. How did novel writing skills develop in India?**

**Ans. (i)** The modern novel form developed in the 19th century, as Indians became familiar with the Western novel.

**(ii)** The development of the vernaculars, print and reading public helped in this process.

**(iii)** Some of the earliest Indian novels were written in Bengali and Marathi. They used the simple style of storytelling.

**Q. 7. How did Premchand revolutionise the writing of Hindi novels?**

**Ans. (i)** Premchand began writing in Urdu and then shifted to Hindi; being one of the most influential writers in both languages.

**(ii)** His novels lifted the Hindi novel from the realm of fantasy, moralising and simple entertainment to a serious reflection on the lives of ordinary people and social issues.

**(iii)** He wrote in the traditional art of 'Kissa-goi'.

**Q. 8. What is the contribution of Basheer in the writing of novels?**

**Ans. (i)** Basheer's short novels and stories were written in ordinary language that of a conversation.

**(ii)** With wonderful humour, Basheer's novels spoke about details from the everyday life of a Muslim households.

**(iii)** He also brought into Malayalam writing and themes which were considered very unusual at that time—poverty, insanity and life in prisons.

**Q. 9. How did G.A. Henty's historical adventure novels for boys become popular?**

**Ans. (i)** G.A. Henty's novels were also wildly popular during the height of the British Empire.

**(ii)** They aroused the excitement and adventure of conquering strange lands.

**(iii)** They were set in Mexico, Alexandria, Siberia and many other countries.

**(iv)** They were always about young boys who witnessed grand historical events, get involved in some military action and show what they called 'English Courage.'

**Q. 10. What kind of stories were taken for adolescent girls in novels?**

**Ans. (i)** Love stories written for adolescent girls also first became popular in this period, especially in the US.

**(ii)** Some of the works of fiction for that period were *Romana* by Helen Hunt Jackson.

**(iii)** Sarah Chauncy Woolsey had also written "What Katy Did". He wrote under the pen name Susan Coolidge.

**Q. 11. What do you know about earliest Indian novels?**

**Ans. (i)** Some of the earliest Indian novels were written in Bengali and Marathi.

**(ii)** The earliest novel in Marathi was Baba Padmanji's 'Yamuna Paryatan', which used a simple style of storytelling to speak about the plight of widows.

**(iii)** This was followed by Lakshman Moreshwar Halbe's 'Muktamala'. This was not a realistic novel; it presented an imaginary 'romance' narrative with a moral purpose.

**Q. 12. How did the characters of Pariksha Guru attempt to bridge two different worlds?**

**Ans.** In the novel, we see the characters attempting to bridge two different worlds through their actions; they take to new agricultural technology, modernise trading practices, change the use of Indian languages making them capable of transmitting both Western sciences and Indian wisdom.

**Q. 13. How did 'Durgesh Nandini' written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay become popular?**

**Ans. (i)** Besides the ingenious twists and turns of the plot and the suspense the novel was also relished for its language.

**(ii)** The prose style became a new object of enjoyment.

**(iii)** Initially, the Bengali novel used a colloquial style associated with urban life. It also used *meyeli*, the language associated with women's speech.

This style was quickly replaced by Bankim's prose, which was Sanskritised but also contained a more vernacular style.

**Q. 14. How did vernacular novels become a valuable source of information on native life and customs?**

**Ans. (i)** Such information was useful for Britishers in governing Indian society, with its large variety of communities and castes.

**(ii)** As outsiders, the British knew little about life inside Indian households. The new novels in Indian languages often had descriptions of domestic life.

**(iii)** They showed how people dressed their forms of religious worship, their beliefs and practices and so on.

**Q. 15. How did novels help in establishing a relationship with the past?**

**Ans. (i)** Many novels told thrilling stories of adventure and intrigues set in the past.

**(ii)** Through glorious account of the past, these novels helped in creating a sense of national pride among their readers.

**(iii)** At the same time, people from all walks of life could read novels so long as they shared a common language. This helped in creating a sense of collective belonging on the basis of one's language.

**Q. 16. What were the reasons for the popularity of novels among women?**

**Ans. (i)** It allowed for a new conception of womanhood.

**(ii)** Stories of Love—which were a staple theme of many novels—showed women who could choose or refuse their partners and relationships.

**(iii)** It showed women who could, to some extent, control their lives. Some women authors also wrote novels about women who changed the world of both men and women.

**Q. 17. What do you know about Rokeya Hossein's writings?**

**Ans. (i)** Rokeya Hossein was a reformer who, after she was widowed, started a girls' school in Calcutta.

**(ii)** She wrote a satiric fantasy in English called 'Sultana's Dream' which shows a topsy turvy world in which women take the place of men.

**(iii)** Her novel 'Padmarag' also showed the need for women to reform their condition by their own actions.

**Q. 18. What kind of marriage alliance is shown in 'Indulekha'?**

**Ans. (i)** This concerned the marriage practices of upper caste Hindus in Kerala, especially the Nambuthiri Brahmins and the Nayers.

**(ii)** Nambuthiris were also major landlords in Kerala at that time, and a large section of the Nayers were their tenants.

**(iii)** In late 19th century Kerala, a younger generation of English educated Nayar men who had acquired property and wealth on their own, began arguing strongly against Nambuthiri alliances with Nayar women.

They wanted new laws regarding marriage and property.