

BA-III (English Literature)

Semester Fifth

Topic-1

Ques:-What are the chief characteristics of the Romantic Period?

Ans:-In the field of English Literature, Romantic Period is known as a great reaction and revolution against the already established authority in the society. It was an epoch making reaction welcomed by the contemporary poets. The Romantic period got its birth with the publication of **“Preface to the Lyrical Ballads”** in 1798 by the efforts of Wordsworth and Coleridge. The poets of this age contributed a lot in order to bring the poetry to its climax. It was a sudden shifting from London life to the lap of nature where everything is natural and romantic. The Romantic Movement is also known as the **‘Renaissance of Wonder’** having Sensational and thrilling elements. According to Sir Walter Peter, **“Romanticism means the addition of strangeness to beauty”**. Romantic Movement was primarily and extraordinary development of imaginative sensibility. By **‘Renaissance of Wonder’** Romanticism means a spiritual enlightenment in the field of natural background. Romantic period expresses sharp sensibilities and imaginative feelings. Emotions and imagination is the centre of romanticism. It was an age of transformation in English and European life. The romantic revival came in the beginning of nineteenth century. The chief characteristics of the romantic period are as under:-

- 1) **Break from the set rules:** - The poetry of this age is in complete contrast to the characteristics cultivated by the 18th century neo classical poets. In the 18th century, Poetry was governed by strict rules and regulations. Any deviation from the set track was disliked by the mentors of poetic thoughts.

W.J. Long says, “The romantic moment is marked and is always marked by a strong reaction and protest against the bounds of rules and customs and to free the human spirits from the shackles of rules and regulations.”

- 2) **Interest in country life:** - Poetry in the 18th century was concerned with clubs and coffee houses, drawing rooms and social and political life of London. It was essentially the poetry of town life. Nature had no place in classical poetry but in a romantic revival, the interest of poets was transported from town to country life and from artificial decorations of the drawing rooms to the natural beauty of nature. Nature began to have its own importance. Wordsworth was a great poet who revealed the physical and spiritual beauty of nature to those who couldn't see any charm in flowers, green fields and chirping birds. So, the poets of this age started living in close touch with the beauties and charm of nature.
- 3) **Presentation of common life:** - Romantic poets started taking interest in the lives of common people, shepherds and cottages and left the gallants and gay butterflies of the fashionable class. Renewed Interest in simple life marked the poetry of this age. A feeling of humanitarianism coloured the poetry of Wordsworth, Shelley and Byron.
- 4) **Love of liberty and freedom:** - In this poetry, Emphasis was laid on the liberty and freedom of individuals. Romantic poets rebel against tyranny and brutality of tyrants. Human beings crushed by poverty and smashed by inhuman laws were also noted by romantic poets. The poets gave subjective interpretation to the objective realities of life. For example, **Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind"**.

- 5) **Revolt against Social Authorities:**-The romantic poets revolted against social authorities in literary tradition. They didn't welcome the exploitation of the weaker under the hands of the stronger. They stressed the idea of live and let live. Their aim was to sweeten the bitter aspects of life with the help of imagination. The organizers of the French Revolution had a great influence on the minds of romantic poets. Shelley and Lord Byron had openly revolted against the social authorities in the poems. Byron also compared the line of reaction against the well set traditions.
- 6) **Escape to middle ages from far off places:** - Romantic poetry proved to be the poetry of escape from the sorrows and sufferings of mundane life to avoid the ugliness of materialistic life and Uneasy restlessness of their age. They found an escape from the harsh realities of life to a world of joy and beauty. **Walter peter** says "The essential elements of the romantic period are curiosity and love of beauty.
- 7) **Predominance of Imagination and Emotions:** - The neo-classicist gave importance to the faculty of reason than to imagination. They had never thought about the concept of human life. From the language of heart, rather they followed the language of mind with much stress. They had paid complete attention towards real life led by the contemporary society of England. On the contrary, in romantic poetry, reason and intellect were subdued and their place was taken by imagination, emotion and passion. In the poetry of this age, we have the exhibition of heightened emotional sensibilities and imaginative flights of genius quality as compared to the poets of previous years. The romantics didn't follow wit but they followed

real poetic inspirational poetry. For them it is the breath and finer spirit of knowledge.

8) **Supernaturalism:** - Another outstanding quality of the romantic period is the use of supernaturalism. A sense of mystery and wonder was imparted to the poetry by poets like Coleridge and Scott. Because of this supernatural effect, the poetry developed its atmosphere of wonder and mystery and sorrowful feelings and justified the title 'Renaissance of Wonder'. Coleridge's three poems-"**The Rime of Ancient Mariner, Kubla khan, Christabel**" are the best examples of supernaturalism.

9) **Note of subjectivity:** - Romantic poets gave subjective interpretation to the objective realities of life. Poetry became individualistic in outlook. W.J. Long says "The romantic movement was the expression of individual genius rather than established rules." Lucas says" the poetry was an expression of **Id**" As in "**Ode to the West Wind**" Shelley has urged west wind to take him away from the sorrows of life.

Oh, lift me as a wave,

A leaf, a cloud!

I fall upon the thorns of life!

I bleed!

10) **Endless variety in romantic poetry:**-Poetry of this age is as varied as characters of moods of different writers. Long says " To read romanticists is like passing through a new village meeting a score of different human types and finding in each one something to love and to remember.

11) **Lyricism;** - The Romantics also revolted against the diction and meter of neo-classical poets. These poets had used heroic couplets with iambic

pentameter but the romantic poets used versification. Their poetry was more musical and rhythmical than the previous one. The diction and meter of these poets were very simple, too far away from the unnatural touch. They used vivid images and objects from a natural background. Their poetic language consisted of simple rural life, which appealed universally. Lyricism excels the poets of the school. It is used as a number of lyrics excelling the heroic couplet of classical age in melody and sweetness of tone.

12) **Simplicity in style:**-Poets led great stress on simplicity .In Romantic Period; we have more natural diction and spontaneous way of expressing thoughts.

13) **Worship of beauty:** - Romantics are the high priest of beauty. Their imagination was thrilled to ecstasy by the touch of it. If the Poets like Wordsworth and Shelley were attracted towards nature's beauty. Keats was full of appreciation of physical beauty. Beauty to them is a source of permanent joy. "**A thing of beauty is a joy forever.**"

Summing up:-To sum up, we can say that the Romantic Period is the period of protest against the old conventions and traditions, the rules and regulations. In this period the poets return to nature. They showed their sympathy with the world in their writings. They laid emphasis upon the freedom and liberty of the individual. They return to Milton and Elizabeth instead of Pope and Dryden.

Topic-2

Ques:-Who are the major Romantic Poets and Essayists of this period?

Ans: - Major Romantic Poets:-

In the poetry of Romantic Revival, the interest of poets was transferred from town to country life and from the artificial decoration of drawing rooms to the beauty and loveliness of nature.

The Romantics discovered a new beauty, charm and wonder in the world of nature. They loved nature for their own sake and not as a background to activities of human beings. They were all lovers of nature and minutely observed all the aspects and expressed their poetry in an extremely musical language. They also described in poetry their emotional reactions to beauty, charm and magic. Thus, in the poetry of the romantic revival, we have added rest among poets to discard the shine of an artificial life and turn to the elemental simplicity of life lived in a closer touch with the beauties and charms of nature. Nature played a key role in their poetry which reached its Heights and flights.

William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850):- Wordsworth is the senior most of all the romantics. He is the poet of nature. As Pope is the greatest poet of the town and of artificial life. Wordsworth is the greatest poet of country life and natural life. His love of nature is boundless and his knowledge of nature is equal to his love. In all his poems, whether “**Lucy Grey poems**” “**Tintern Abbey**” “**Ode: Intimations of Immortality**”, he has given the divine aspect of nature. Nature was for him:-

“The embodiment of divine spirit”

While Wordsworth is essentially the poet of nature, Wordsworth gives us the birds, flowers, wind and the tree river as they are. He is content to let them speak their own language. He finds beauty in the common world and nature. His physical and sensuous appreciation takes a form of spiritual delight. The poet feels a presence of God in all the objects of nature. He finds god in the shining of stars, in the flowering of fields. Nature can be the perfect educator of man. He emphasizes the educative power of nature. Acc. to Wordsworth, there is no difference between God and Nature, he believes that

“Nature never did betray,
The heart that loved her”

P.B.Shelley (1792 -1822):-Nature occupies a place of distinction in Shelley’s poetry too. As a poet of nature, he is basically a philosopher poet. He does not allow himself to give clear cut pictures of landscapes. The whole thing is so mysterious and elusive. Most of his nature pictures are idealized groups of scattered fragments flowing from his memory rather than portraits of what he has actually seen and enjoyed.

Shelley, like Wordsworth, believes that nature is a living being. Some of his important poems are “The cloud to the skylark”, “Ode to the West Wind”. Shelley, like Wordsworth, found healing power in nature. It is a different thing that sometimes he found himself too sad to be consoled by her. Shelley also observes a spirit in the objects of nature. He finds a close identity between the spirit of nature and spirit of love. He finds nature full of love and sympathy, who approaches with intense feelings of affection. He observes the power of love in nature.

Shelley uses forces of nature as symbols. In “Ode to the West Wind”,he uses the symbol of destruction and creation. His poetry bubbles with optimism.

The concluding lines of “Ode to the west wind” represents the new age full of mercy, pity, peace and love.

“O wind

If winter comes can spring be far behind

To sum up, we can say that Shelley’s poetry embodies his vision of Ideal love, freedom and Justice.

John Keats (1795 -1821):- Keats was also a great lover of nature. He loved nature not for its spiritual significance but for its sensuous pleasure. He was one of the greatest admirers of nature. In his poetry, there are beautiful descriptions of the wonderful sites and scenes of nature. The colour, the sound, the music stir his senses to nature’s depths. His love for nature is sensuous. It does not carry any spiritual messages for him. He did not carry any moral instructions from the beauties and charms of nature.

Keats showed progress in his poetry and called it the vehicle of the highest kind of truth. He became more and more interested in his search for truth. He writes:

“Beauty is truth, truth is beauty”

Keats’s poetry had creative vision. Even his dream had a higher order. He wanted to act as a balm for the suffering humanity. Imagination was necessary for the well-being of humanity.

His important Odes are:

- Ode to Nightingale
- Ode on a Grecian Urn
- Ode to Autumn
- Ode to Melancholy
- Ode to psyche

Keats enjoyed a divine gift of poetry in the world of beauty, nature and imagination. His works influenced Tennyson and many other poets of the romantic era.

Lord Byron (1788 -1824):- Byron occupies a special place in the Romantic Movement. Romantic poets of England love nature. Byron has no exception. His love for nature was of his own kind and stood apart from other romantic poets. Byron possessed the quality of imagination.

His attitude towards nature was free from theory. He described nature as he found it. He seeks communication with nature to escape from man. Byron captured the brooding atmosphere without touching it. His important poems are:-

- The Prisoner of Chillon
- The Vision of Judgment
- Don Juan

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834):- Coleridge's attitude to the earlier phase of his poetic career was similar to Wordsworth. Coleridge felt nature to be a guiding spirit and teacher. He believes in spiritual contact between man and nature. Nature was everything to him. He always found relief in the company of nature. To love human beings may be full of illusions but to love nature is crystal clear. From nature he bought a precious comfort which appeals to the core of his heart. It was his guide and nature. Coleridge has given the description of nature in the following lines:

He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

Coleridge's "The Rime of Ancient Mariner" is one of the best poems in English narrative poetry. His landscape is seen through the human atmosphere.

Major Romantic Essayists:

The early nineteenth century is remarkable for the splendid work of many novelists. Like the poets, these essayists were personal and subjective. Their essays were autobiographical and self-analytic. The major essayists are:-

Charles Lamb: - Charles Lamb was a sensitive essayist. His essays include a wide range of human life and they are expressed with different colours of feelings and emotions. Being a friend of William Hazlitt, he depicted life full of romantic imaginations and memories of his past childhood. His essays are the collection of his self-revelation. He had disclosed heart rendering imaginations. Some of his essays are "My Relations", "Poor Relations", "The South Sea House", "The Confessions of a Drunkard", and "Dream Children". He sets up familiarity with his readers.

William Hazlitt: The place of William Hazlitt among English essayists is very high. His vivid and copious expressions full of glowing images are his assets. He is expressed his philosophy of life in various moods, and most his essays are the collection of his self-revelation. They are built around his philosophic tastes. His essays "Pleasure of Hating", "On Going a Journey", "Indian Jugglers" and "On going to a Fight" are all good expressions of vivacious themes.

Sir Walter Scott: -Scott was the first and last great historical novelist of England. He avoided the pitfalls of his predecessors and produced novels in a new light. He was the novelist who presented the past history of France, England and Scotland.

He is famous for giving a new turn to the historical novel. He combined in his novels the story of adventure, and elements of Gothic romance. He vitalized the past and converted the history into creative imagination. Some of his novels like "Guy Mannering", and "The Heart of Midlothian" "Deal with Scotland", "Ivanhoe" and "The Fortunes of Nigel", "Deal with Scotland" ,"Ivanhoe" and "The Fortunes of Nigel", "Deal with England". His other famous novels are "Waverley", "The Black Dwarf", "Old Morality", "The Abbot", "A Legend of Montrose" and "The Talisman".

Jane Austen: - Jane Austen was one of the greatest women novelists of the 19th century. She wrote six novels and all her novels bear the stamp of her craft. She was a sophisticated artist. She had always thought about the social conditions of her time and expressed her desires to the burning problems of her problems of her age. Her fictitious characters bring before us the authentic life led by the social people. She deals with one peculiar mode of existence and her novels speak about the upper middle classes and their activities. She also gives the every minute details of life like tea parties and theatres. There is no advertisement, no passion and no romance in her novels. She kept herself away from murders, petty crimes. Her main works are:

- Sense and Sensibility
- Pride and Prejudice
- Mansfield Park
- Northanger Abbey

Topic-3

Ques: What are the chief characteristics of the Victorian Period?

Ans: The Victorian age is one of the most remarkable periods in the history of England. It began with the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne of England in 1832. It was an era of material and mechanical progress, scientific advancement, social interest, educational expansion, empire building and religious uncertainty. It was an age where one could welcome as well as criticize the values in literature. Yet it was an epoch in the history of English literature, the advancement made in the field of poetry, prose, and fiction was commendable.

The Victorian era was an age of rapid flux and baffling complexity. It witnessed many changes and the complexity of social forces; it was an age of faith, doubt, morality, hypocrisy, prosperity, poverty, idealism and progress. The main Characteristics of the Victorian Period are:-

An Era of Peace and Prosperity: The Victorian period was essentially a period of peace and prosperity for England. The Colonial wars had grim impacts on English people. But these were forgotten with normal life. The effect of French revolution could be felt but in the middle of the century, everything was safe.

Impact of Industrial Revolution: Peace brought material advancement and industrial progress in the country. The industrial revolution of the age transformed the Agrarian economy of England to an industrial economy. Mills and factories were set up and the whole of England hummed with weaving machines.

Social Reforms: Due to much rapid progress of machines and factories, the society was divided into labour class and capital class. With the greed of more

profits, the capitalists began to exploit the labourers, miners, and debtors. So, social reforms were sought. The Victorian age witnessed vigorous social reforms to downtrodden society.

Growth of Democratic Tendencies: Among the many circumstances making for change, the chief one was the growth of Democracy. The growing importance of the masses and the large number of factory hands gave a speed to reform bills thereby democratic awareness among the people. The King and peers were both stripped off their powers and left the past civilization. The House of Commons became the ruling power in England; it introduced many bills for democracy.

Advancement in Science, Education, and Intellect: The discovery of science led to a multitude of conceptions of the most revolutionary kind which unsettled many of the old bases of religious belief and affected literature in numerous ways. England witnessed expansion in the field of education. A large reading public was prepared to welcome the outpouring of novelists, poets and social reformers. There was an unprecedented intellectual and scientific advancement during this age. Science became an important factor and Darwin's "**Origin of Species**" brought a great change in the map of England.

Religious and Moral Consideration: In spite of great and rapid scientific progress, the life of England was still governed by religious considerations. There was a conflict between religion and science. The Oxford movement represents the revival of the old Roman Catholic religion and the authority of the church.

An age of Prose: The romantic revival had done its work and England entered upon a new free period in which every form of literature from pure romance to realism struggled for expression. The age produced many poets who deserved to

rank among the greatest .So; this was emphatically an age of prose. The number of readers had increased a thousand fold with the spread of popular education. So, it became an age of the newspaper, magazines and the modern novel. The novel was the pleasantest form of literary entertainment and presented modern problems and modern ideals. The novel in this age filled a place which the drama held in the days of Elizabeth.

Deals with Domestic Life: The Victorians dealt with the characters and their lifestyles in a very simple way. Even Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot who were realist in everything else did not lift to the lid of the animality of their characters. Even drinking too much was held in the Victorian period. It produced such lovers of wine as Addison, Steele, and Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson wrote, “He who aspires to be a hero must drink brandy.”

Victorian Compromise: The Victorian age was a compromise between many facts of English life. In the field of political life, there was a compromise between democracy and aristocracy. A compromise was sought between science and religion.

Realism: The literature of this period was correlated to social and political life of England. The writers of this age were inspired by social zeal to represent the problems of their own age. In this age, literature became a device of social reform and social propaganda with didactic aim.

Conclusion: In summing up, we can say that the Victorian age has a significant influence on the creation of literature. The writers of this age gave force to human note in their books because they wanted to restore peace and justice to the society of England.

Topic-4

Ques: - Who are the major novelists and Poets of the Victorian Period?

Ans: - Major Novelist of the Victorian period:

The Victorian age is marked by its rapid changes in every field of society. With the help of Queen Victoria, England achieved its greatness with new themes and ideologies. It was a revolt against the past traditions. It was a great age for English novels. The novel flourished as the middle class rose in power and importance. There was an increase in the number of reading public. The number of libraries increased. The Victorian novel aimed at giving a realistic picture of society. The chief novelists of Victorian period are:

Charles Dickens: Dickens became the true representative of this age. He was a novelist of great skill. This age gave him dissatisfaction and frustration. His own life was full of miseries and pains because he didn't get the true love of his parents. His love affair also got destroyed and he felt his life frustrated. This frustration got its true expression in his novels. Dickens reflected the true spirit of industrial development with great speed and this gave birth to the two classes of society. The first one was 'the Capital class' and the second class was 'the labour class'. The labour class was exploited heavily and Dickens had observed this exploitation very closely. He couldn't bear the pain and his characters became his mouthpiece. His novels "**Hard Times**", "**Oliver Twist**", "**Pickwick Papers**", and "**David Copperfield**" are all important creations in the field of English novels. The main inclination of Dickens was social reformation. Through his novels, he wanted to bring revolution in the society and diminished the social

irregularities. His characters play their important role.

William Thackeray: Thackeray was born in India and returned to England in 1817 after the death of his father who was an officer in the East India Company. He studied at Charter house and Cambridge. He confines his attention to society, its clubs and well to do people. He is essentially a realist and a social satirist. His major works include "**Vanity Fair**", "**The History of Henry Esmond**", "**The Virginians**" and "**The Newcomes**".

Thomas Hardy: Hardy was a prominent Victorian novelist, who gave a new depth to the English novel. He was the creator of the philosophical novel. He enriched the regional trend in the English novel. In his novels, Hardy presents the conflict between the old rural civilization and the new urban civilization. He brings before us the plight of human beings. His best novels are:

- Under the Greenwood Tree
- The Return of the Native
- The Mayor of Caster bridge
- Tess of the d'Urbervilles
- Jude the Obscure

John Ruskin: Ruskin was a very sensitive novelist. He eagerly reacted to the rapid changes overtaken in English life when he saw the scientific and industrial development; he sensed the coming problem that might be so powerful that it could burn this rapid change. He compelled himself to study contemporary society and decided to provide solutions to such great problems. Due to the exploitation of the labour class by the factory owners, an imbalance was created in the society. The greed was so powerful that the rights of labourers were crushed under their

feet. He couldn't bear this oppression and he gave some economical methods of reducing the pains of the labour class. He propounded the new theories of economy and also provided regular and limited time to the labourers from a humanistic point of view. He also spoke against increasing materialism. Ruskin was well known for his criticism. He has given many new theories and spoke against the policy of 'laissez faire'. His chief novels are **Modern Painters, The Stones of Venice, Unto This Last**".

Other than Ruskin, the early decades of the Victorian age were known as the true representative of the spirit of this age. These groups of writers are known as the writers of naughty nineties. These novelists followed their age but at the same time they reflected the consecrated spirit. R. L. Stevenson, Rudyard Kipling and Joseph Conrad prepared the first group which was interested in adventurous stories. They were chiefly interested in the portraiture of rural class and rural problems. Stevenson's "David Balfour", "Island Nights Entertainment" and "The Appetite" are great novels. Conrad's "The Heart of Darkness" brings before us the adventures of Marlowe in the darkest area-Kango in South Africa. The second group involves the scientific novels of HG Wells. His novel "The Time Machine" is famous for the imaginary development of science. Another novelist is George Gissing. He is well-known for his novels "Odd Women", "New Grub Street". One more is George Moore. He has written "Esther's Water"

Major women novelists of Victorian age:

The Victorian age is marked by its rapid changes in every field of society. With the help of Queen Victoria, England achieved its greatness with new themes and ideology. It was a revolt against the past traditions and regulations. This age gave

open welcome to prose and novels. Due to the advancement in education, the female class also became active in writing novels. Their novels deal with the contemporary burning problems of the society with the element of realism. The Victorian age is chiefly known for its female novelists. Mrs. Frances Trollope, Mrs. Catherine Gore, Mrs. Marsh, and Mrs. Charlotte Yonge are great female novelists of this age. Among these female novelists, four major female novelists produced their creations with great zeal. They are: - Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell, and Mrs. George Eliot.

Charlotte Bronte:-In the field of English Literature, the name of Bronte sisters occupies a great place. These sisters are Anne, Emily and Charlotte. All the three sisters contributed their skills in highlighting the various placid romances in human life. They all died with equal age and of tuberculosis. Charlotte is remarkable for her great novels "The Professor", "Villette", "Jane Eyre" and "Shirley". Among all the novels "Jane Eyre" is very much close to the original life of Charlotte herself. Charlotte in her novels, revolted against the traditions of Jane Austen, William Thackeray and Charles Dickens. All these mentioned novelists were great for their dedication to past traditions and Charlotte circulated herself to the similar quality of autobiography. Her characters are simple caricatures of society and her novels show old fashioned passion for life.

Emily Bronte: A true follower of her sister, Charlotte, in the regards of writing novels. Emily has won her name and fame due to only one novel "Wuthering Heights". This is the only novel which gave her a chance to stand with great female novelists. She is very revolutionary and rebels against the already established customs and traditions. Her novel "Wuthering Heights" shows the

story of an Outsider who is adopted by the owner of a great farm house. It is also a passionate love story of Heathcliff and Catherine. Their love is so stronger that the nature of Wuthering Heights feels their presence in the wild moor.

Elizabeth Gaskell: Mrs. Gaskell has nothing to do with the prosaic novelty of Bronte Sisters. She has a different passion regarding controlling life. She has always watched life in a new light. Her best novels are "Mary Barton", "South and North" which deal with social and industrial problems. Her characters are mostly available from any human society struggling with the external forces and feelings. Mrs. Gaskell has observed the positive impacts of industrial development and she has praised it in her novels. In the second group she may be included "Cranford", 'Ruth'. "Wives and Daughters" all deals with rural life. Mrs. Gaskell opens before us the picture of coffee houses, gossiping, and tea parties.

George Eliot: George Eliot is the pseudonym of the original writer 'Mary Ann Evans'. She has adopted the male name because contemporary society of her time didn't allow a female novelist to write novels. She is a philosophical novelist. Philosophy has maintained her reputation as a successful novelist in the field of novels. Her novels include "The Mill on the Floss", "Adam Bede", "Romole", "Middlemarch" and "Silas Marner". Most of her novels belong to the philosophy of good and bad atmosphere. There is a special inclination from her behalf towards the victory of moral values in the end. "The Mill on the Floss" is a great tragedy of both the brother and sister in the flood of the river Floss. In "Silas Marner" we see how Silas is degraded to a misanthrope and starts living on the outskirts of the village. It is with the advent of Epic that Silas again receives a chance and becomes an anthropologist. Most of her novels deal with the deep conception of human psychology. In this regard, she is one of the notable female

novelists of the Victorian Period.

Major Poets of Victorian Period:

The Victorian age was an age of mechanical progress and expression. The middle class rose in power, the poetry was bound to flourish because it suited the taste of the growing middle classes. Following Romanticism, Victorian poets continued with many of the previous era themes. The most prolific poets of the Victorian period are:

Alfred Lord Tennyson: Tennyson was a poet-Laureate of England. Tennyson was regarded as one of the greatest poets of the Victorian period. He is not only a man but he is a voice of people. He reflects many people through his poems .He has written many poems including: The Lotus-Eaters, Lady of Shallot, The Princess and Maud and other poems. He makes a reference to nature in the poem song :

"the winds as at this hour of birth"

Robert Browning: Robert Browning is also considered as one of the famous poets of the Victorian Period. He laid a great influence upon the writers of the modern period. His main idea is:

“A life without love must be a failure, and that God is working all things to an end beyond human divining.”

His famous poems are:

- Pauline

- Pippa passes
- Fra lippo lippi
- Andra Del Sarto
- Rabbi Ben Ezra

Mathew Arnold: Mathew Arnold was a writer of many activities, but he is chiefly regarded as a poet and critic that holds his place in literature. His poetry is reflective and intellectual, and in his prose writings, he tried to rouse the consciousness of the middle class. He has written many poems:

‘The Scholar Gipsy’ ,“Dover Beach”, “ A Summer Night” , “The Strayed Reveller” and many more. The famous quote from one of his famous poems is:

“Life is not a having and a getting,
but a being and a becoming”

Dante Gabriel Rossetti: The eldest of the pre-Raphaelite school of artists and poets, Rossetti was himself a painter and a poet. In art, as in poetry, he broke away from conventions. His poetical works are small in bulk, consisting of two slight volumes: Poems and Ballads and Sonnets.

Topic-5

Ques: What are the major thematic and technical features of the literature of the Modern Period?

Ans: The morning dawn of the 20th century witnessed the emergence of new values in the field of social, political, economic and literary life. The literature of this age has been more remarkable than the literature of previous ages because in the Modern age the writers thought about new philosophy, new outlook, new concepts and new experiments. They were quite interested in producing new revolutionary themes. The literature and life of the modern age was governed more by realism than by romance. Moreover, the Modern age promised a new scientific method and new scientific outlook in the map of literature.

The Modern period began from 1890 with revolutionary ideas. The writers became more conscious about national awareness. The other European countries were standing on the peak of high success in materialism and social activities. These great changes brought revolution in the field of literature. The new experiments in the psychological field also improved the general outlook towards life. The writers like D. H. Lawrence in novels and T. S. Eliot in poetic drama developed new themes of life. The Modern age was complex and full of chaos. There were many upheavals and tumult in the field of literature and the

common readers couldn't decide what to follow. The spirit of pessimism had covered the mind of modern people due to the grim effects of World War I. This age gave birth to frustration and depression among the youngsters of England. They felt themselves to be exploited from the hands of the rich class. The most thematic and technical features of this age are:

The decline of old traditions and customs: In the Modern period one could notice a great decline in the field of poetry. No great poetry was produced and no great poet except TS Eliot produced world class literature. This shows a great decline in poetry form. The old traditions and customs were forgotten under the shadows of new experiments and concepts. The writers of this period thought about new themes and replaced the previous flavor to recharge the Modern readers. At the same time the writers of the Modern age followed to some extent the works of previous writers like Tennyson, Matthew Arnold and Robert Browning. But the main feature of this age was an intelligent combination of old traditions and modern outlook. T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound also followed the past traditions and mythologies with new taste.

Modern Themes: The thematic structure of literature also got changed because the writers wanted to introduce new concepts of writing books. They were chiefly concerned with the burning contemporary problems of modern life. In place of love at first sight, the writers of the age described the immoral and sexual love. Moreover, the bad results of world war-I generated the germs of jealousy and frustration in the local air. There were economical problems, marital problems and unemployment which struck the spirit of youngsters in a negative way. We can have the examples of Richard Aldington's "**Machine Guns**", Ashley's "**Goods Train at Night**" and Edmund Gassess' "**The Charcoal Burner**".

The Reflection of Realism: The writers of this age stressed on the depiction of

real life. They followed the real incidents and real concepts of human life in a new flavor. Pastoralism, romanticism and its relative terms were considered the things of the past. Now the poets of the Modern age don't talk about the beauties of Tintern Abbey or Elysian happiness. On the contrary they talked about social problems. The Victorian age had grown the impacts of industrial development which gave birth to conflict between higher and lower class. The youngsters faced more burning problems than the people of the previous age. Prostitution, war, slum dwellers and down trodden became the reality of life. The writers of this age followed only those things which could be seen very easily on the market places in the society. Eliot's "The Waste Land" brings the true boredom of life in the Modern Period.

A Note of Pessimism: The Modern age brought with itself the spirit of pessimism. Everywhere the people were suffering from one problem and the other. The struggle between the poor and rich class produced a great ditch which couldn't be easily filled by the young generation. Indeed it was the age of worries, anxiety, frustration, depression and gloominess. Eliot's "The Waste Land" describes the true note of pessimism among the people. It wasn't the melancholy groups of Keats but the true sadness of this period.

Predominance of Drama: In modern literature, Drama has again witnessed a remarkable reveal after an age old slumber and obscurity to which had fallen after the 18th century. In the hands of Galsworthy, Bernard Shaw, T.S. Eliot, a drama, has made rapid progress in the 20th century.

New Experiments: New experiments were tried in all branches of literature. The traditional forms were thrown out and their place was taken up by new literary experiments in the field of Poetry, Drama and Novel. The 20th century English literature has considerably been influenced by foreign artists. The influence of

Ibsen on modern drama has been profound in the sphere of form, matter and stage-craft. The influence of Dostoevsky and Flaubert is clearly perceptible in the modern age. The philosophical theories of Sigmund Freud have coloured the fiction of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf

Psychological Profundity: The Modern period discussed the psychological profundity of the concept of the writers. The writers experimented with new thoughts born in the mind of the people. They also noticed how the people engaged in profound internal concepts. The undercurrents of their ideas are reflected with the help of the '**Stream of Consciousness Technique**'. The writers of this age owe much to the psychological theories of Sigmund Freud. William James and Bergson also experienced new psychological thoughts from the human brain. Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, Dorothy and T. S. Eliot brought on the surface the critical undercurrents of human psychology.

