

Sample Questions

Subject- English

Paper- 203

Prose-I

Short answer type questions.

1. What is the main argument or thesis presented in "Of Studies"?
2. How does Bacon define different types and purposes of studies?
3. What are the benefits and limitations of reading and writing, according to Bacon?
4. How does Bacon emphasize the importance of practical application in the pursuit of knowledge?

The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan:

1. Who is the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress" and what genre does it belong to?
2. What is the main allegorical journey depicted in "The Pilgrim's Progress"?
3. Discuss the significance of characters like Christian, Evangelist, and Mr. Worldly Wiseman.
4. What are some moral or religious themes conveyed in "The Pilgrim's Progress"?

The Battle of the Books by Jonathan Swift:

1. Who wrote "The Battle of the Books" and what is its central conflict?
2. Discuss the debate between ancient and modern authors in "The Battle of the Books."
3. What are some key arguments made by both sides during this literary battle?
4. How does "The Battle of the Books" reflect broader cultural debates between tradition and innovation?

The Tatler:

1. Who were the main contributors to "The Tatler" and what was its purpose?
2. Discuss the format and content typically found in issues of "The Tatler."
3. How did "The Tatler" influence early periodical literature?
4. What were some notable topics or themes addressed in articles published in "The Tatler"?

The Spectator:

1. Who were the authors behind "The Spectator" and what was their objective?
2. Discuss the role of fictional characters like Sir Roger de Coverley in "The Spectator."
3. How did "The Spectator" contribute to the development of the modern essay genre?
4. What were some recurring themes or social issues addressed in articles published in "The Spectator"?

On Ignorance of the Learned:

1. Who wrote "On Ignorance of the Learned" and what is its main argument?
2. Discuss the author's critique of excessive specialization and narrow knowledge.
3. Provide examples or illustrations used to support the author's viewpoint.
4. How does "On Ignorance of the Learned" emphasize the importance of well-rounded knowledge and intellectual humility?

Long answer type questions.

Of Studies by Francis Bacon:

1. In "Of Studies," Francis Bacon argues that various types of reading serve different purposes. Can you discuss the specific types of studies he mentions and elaborate on their respective benefits and limitations?
2. Bacon emphasizes the importance of reading and writing as tools for gaining knowledge. Could you elaborate on his views regarding the advantages and disadvantages of these activities, highlighting his thoughts on judgment and experience?
3. According to Bacon, how does the accumulation of knowledge through reading contribute to a person's personal development and character? Can you provide examples or observations from the text that support this idea?
4. Bacon stresses the significance of practical application in the pursuit of knowledge. Could you explain his reasoning behind this assertion and how it relates to concepts such as wisdom, conversation, and meditation?

The Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan:

1. "The Pilgrim's Progress" is an allegorical journey that depicts Christian's spiritual growth. Can you analyze Christian's encounters with various characters, such as Evangelist, Mr. Worldly Wiseman, and Apollyon, and discuss their symbolic representations in relation to Christian's challenges and progress?
2. The narrative in "The Pilgrim's Progress" is filled with moral lessons and religious themes. Can you identify some of these lessons or themes and provide examples from the text to illustrate their significance?
3. John Bunyan uses vivid descriptions to bring his allegorical world to life. Can you analyze his use of language, imagery, symbolism, and other literary devices in "The Pilgrim's Progress," focusing on their impact on the reader's understanding and engagement with the story?
4. "The Pilgrim's Progress" was written during a time of religious conflict and dissent. How does Bunyan's work reflect the socio-political context of seventeenth-century England? Can you discuss how the narrative addresses the contemporary religious and spiritual concerns of its time?

The Battle of the Books by Jonathan Swift:

1. In "The Battle of the Books," Jonathan Swift presents a satirical debate between ancient and modern authors. Can you discuss the arguments made by both sides, highlighting their views on literature, knowledge, and societal progress?
2. Swift employs allegory and personification in "The Battle of the Books" to represent various literary figures. Can you analyze these characters, such as Apollo, Pallas, and the spider, and explain their symbolic significance within the context of the battle between ancient and modern authors?
3. "The Battle of the Books" can be seen as a reflection of wider cultural debates between tradition and innovation. Can you discuss how Swift's work engages with these broader intellectual and cultural movements of his time, such as the Enlightenment and its emphasis on reason and progress?
4. Swift's satire in "The Battle of the Books" targets not only contemporary authors but also intellectual snobbery and pretentiousness. Can you explore how he uses humor, irony, and wit to critique the learned elites and their narrow-mindedness?

The Tatler:

1. The Tatler was a popular periodical with multiple contributors. Can you discuss some notable contributors to The Tatler, their backgrounds, and their contributions to the publication's content?
2. The Tatler aimed to entertain, educate, and engage its readers. Can you analyze typical themes or topics covered in articles published in The Tatler, highlighting how they reflected or commented on contemporary social issues or cultural trends?
3. The format of The Tatler often included fictional characters like Isaac Bickerstaff. Can you explore how these characters were used to impart moral lessons or satirize societal norms in The Tatler's articles?
4. The Tatler had a considerable influence on early periodical literature. Can you discuss how it contributed to shaping the development of the genre, its impact on the reading habits of the time, and its legacy in later publications?

The Spectator:

1. The Spectator was a collaborative effort by Joseph Addison and Richard Steele. Can you discuss their motivations for creating The Spectator and their objectives in publishing this periodical?

2. The fictional character Sir Roger de Coverley played a significant role in *The Spectator*. Can you analyze Sir Roger's character, his values, and his impact on the overall tone and themes of *The Spectator*'s articles?

3. *The Spectator* is known for popularizing the modern essay genre. Can you explain how its essays were distinct from earlier forms of writing, highlighting notable features or characteristics of *The Spectator*'s essays?

4. *The Spectator* provided social commentary on various topics. Can you identify some recurring themes or social issues addressed in articles published in *The Spectator*, discussing their relevance to the period and their impact on readership?