

1. **Early & Middle English Period (450–1400)**

English literature began around **450 AD**. At that time, three Germanic tribes came to Britain. They were the **Angles, Saxons, and Jutes**. The Angles gave their name to **England** and **English**. Their language was called **Old English**.

The history of early English literature is mainly divided into two periods:

1. **Old English or Anglo-Saxon Period (450–1066)**
2. **Middle English Period (1066–about 1400)**

Beowulf and Old English Poetry

Beowulf is the greatest work of Old English literature. It is the **oldest English epic**. Its writer is unknown. It was probably written between the **8th and 10th centuries**. It has about **3,182 lines**.

The story takes place mainly in **Denmark and Sweden**. But it shows the life and culture of the Anglo-Saxon people. It describes war, sea journeys, the mead-hall, loyalty between a lord and his followers, love of fame, gift-giving, and belief in fate.

The Anglo-Saxons called fate **wyrd**. Their strong loyalty between a lord and his warriors was called **comitatus**.

Beowulf is called the **national epic of the English people** because it gives a clear picture of Anglo-Saxon life.

Some important Old English poems are:

- **The Seafarer**
- **The Wanderer**
- **Deor's Lament**
- **Widsith**

These poems often express sadness, loneliness, and the difficulties of life.

The two famous Old English poets are **Caedmon** and **Cynewulf**.

Caedmon was a simple cowherd. He is called the **father of English song**.

Cynewulf was a religious poet. He used special runic signs to show his name in some of his poems.

Old English Prose

Old English prose developed later than poetry. Much of it was connected with the **Church**.

King Alfred the Great (849–899) is called the **father of English prose**. He translated important Latin books into English. He also helped to begin the **Anglo-Saxon Chronicle**.

Venerable Bede wrote **Ecclesiastical History of the English People**. He wrote it in Latin. He is called the **father of English history**.

Aelfric and **Wulfstan** were also important prose writers. They wrote many religious sermons.

So, Old English poetry mainly shows the life of the **warrior**, while prose was mainly connected with the **Church**.

The Norman Conquest of 1066

The year **1066** is very important in English literary history.

In 1066, **William, Duke of Normandy**, defeated **King Harold** at the **Battle of Hastings**. William then became the King of England.

After the Norman Conquest, **French** became the language of the court, law, and upper-class society. **Latin** remained the language of the Church and education. **English** was mainly used by ordinary people.

For about **300 years**, English was not widely used in books. However, English did not disappear. It changed and became richer.

English lost many of its old grammatical endings. It also took many words from French. About **10,000 French words** entered English.

The Norman Conquest also brought a new type of literature called **romance**. Romances usually told stories about **knights, ladies, adventures, and courtly love**.

The 14th Century and the Black Death

By the middle of the 14th century, English became important again.

In **1362**, English was allowed to be used in the **law courts and Parliament**.

This period is known for the **Alliterative Revival**. Important works of this period include:

- **Pearl**
- **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**

Both works are believed to have been written by the same unknown poet. He is called the **Pearl Poet**.

Pearl is an elegy about a dead child.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is one of the finest English romances.

William Langland wrote **Piers Plowman**. It is an allegorical poem. It criticizes the corruption of the Church and society.

John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English. He is called the **Morning Star of the Reformation**. His followers were called the **Lollards**.

The Black Death

The **Black Death** came to England in **1348–49**. It killed about **one-third of the population**.

The Black Death caused many changes in English society. It weakened the old feudal system. Workers became more valuable because there were fewer workers. It also weakened people's trust in the Church.

The fear of death became an important subject in literature.

The End of the Period

Sir Thomas Malory wrote **Morte d'Arthur**, an important prose romance.

It was printed by **William Caxton** in **1485**.

Important Dates

- **450** — Beginning of English literature
 - **1066** — Norman Conquest
 - **1348–49** — Black Death
 - **1362** — English allowed in law courts and Parliament
 - **1485** — Caxton printed *Morte d'Arthur*
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Key Works

1. *Beowulf*
2. *The Seafarer*

3. *The Wanderer*
4. *Widsith*
5. *Deor's Lament*
6. *The Dream of the Rood*
7. *Christ*
8. *Juliana*
9. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*
10. *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
11. *Brut*
12. *Pearl*
13. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
14. *Piers Plowman*
15. *Morte d'Arthur*

Major Writers

1. **Caedmon** — Old English religious poet
 2. **Cynewulf** — Old English religious poet
 3. **King Alfred the Great** — Father of English prose
 4. **Venerable Bede** — Father of English history
 5. **Aelfric** — Important Old English prose writer
 6. **Wulfstan** — Religious prose writer
 7. **Layamon** — Author of *Brut*
 8. **The Pearl Poet** — Author of *Pearl* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
 9. **William Langland** — Author of *Piers Plowman*
 10. **John Wycliffe** — English Bible translator
 11. **Sir John Mandeville** — Author of *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*
 12. **Sir Thomas Malory** — Author of *Morte d'Arthur*
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পরীক্ষার জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়

Part C — বড় প্রশ্ন

এই অধ্যায় থেকে বড় প্রশ্নের জন্য বিশেষভাবে পড়বে:

1. Anglo-Saxon life as shown in *Beowulf*
2. A note on *Beowulf*
3. Effects of the Norman Conquest

Part B — সংক্ষিপ্ত রচনামূলক প্রশ্ন

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দাও:

1. *Beowulf*
2. King Alfred as the father of English prose
3. Cynewulf
4. The Black Death

Part A — অতি সংক্ষিপ্ত প্রশ্ন

এই বিষয়গুলো অবশ্যই মনে রাখবে:

- 1066 সালের গুরুত্ব
- Caedmon কে ছিলেন
- *Beowulf* কী ধরনের রচনা
- Anglo-Saxon যুগের দুই বিখ্যাত কবি
- Old English-এর প্রধান prose writers
- *Pearl*
- Black Death

খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখ

450, 1066, 1348–49, 1362 এবং **1485** — এগুলো ভালোভাবে মনে রাখবে। ছোট প্রশ্নের উত্তর দিতে এগুলো অনেক কাজে লাগবে।

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

ইংরেজি সাহিত্যের শুরু ধরা হয় প্রায় ৪৫০ খ্রিস্টাব্দে। তখন **Angles, Saxons** ও **Jutes** নামে তিনটি Germanic জাতি Britain-এ আসে। তাদের ভাষা ছিল **Old English**।

প্রথম যুগের সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সাহিত্যিকর্ম হলো **Beowulf**। এটি একটি প্রাচীন **English epic**। এর লেখকের নাম জানা যায় না। এতে Anglo-Saxon মানুষের যুদ্ধ, সাহস, সমুদ্রযাত্রা, রাজা ও যোদ্ধার সম্পর্ক এবং ভাগ্যের প্রতি বিশ্বাসের কথা পাওয়া যায়।

এই যুগের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কবি হলেন **Caedmon** ও **Cynewulf**। Caedmon-কে **English song**-এর জনক বলা হয়।

Old English-এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ গদ্য লেখক হলেন **King Alfred, Bede, Aelfric** ও **Wulfstan**। King Alfred-কে **English prose**-এর জনক বলা হয়।

১০৬৬ সালে **Norman Conquest** হয়। William of Normandy ইংল্যান্ড জয় করেন। এরপর রাজদরবার ও অভিজাত সমাজে **French**, Church-এ **Latin** এবং সাধারণ মানুষের মধ্যে **English** ব্যবহৃত হতে থাকে।

এই সময় English ভাষায় অনেক French শব্দ যোগ হয়। নতুন ধরনের সাহিত্য **Romance** জনপ্রিয় হয়। এতে সাধারণত knight, lady, adventure ও love-এর গল্প থাকত।

চতুর্দশ শতকে English আবার শক্তিশালী হয়ে ওঠে। ১৩৬২ সালে আদালত ও Parliament-এ English ব্যবহারের অনুমতি দেওয়া হয়।

এই সময়ের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রচনা হলো **Pearl, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** এবং **Piers Plowman**।

John Wycliffe Bible ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করেন। তাঁর অনুসারীদের **Lollards** বলা হয়।

১৩৪৮–৪৯ সালে **Black Death** ইংল্যান্ডে ছড়িয়ে পড়ে। এতে প্রায় এক-তৃতীয়াংশ মানুষ মারা যায়। এর ফলে সমাজ ও অর্থনীতিতে বড় পরিবর্তন আসে এবং সাহিত্যে মৃত্যুর চিন্তা বেশি দেখা যায়।

শেষদিকে **Sir Thomas Malory** *Morte d'Arthur* লেখেন। **William Caxton** 1485 সালে এটি ছাপেন।

মনে রাখার সহজ ধারাবাহিকতা:

450 → Old English → Beowulf → 1066 Norman Conquest → French influence → 1348 Black Death → 1362 English in courts & Parliament → 1485 Morte d'Arthur

2. The Age of Chaucer (1340–1400)

The second half of the 14th century is called the **Age of Chaucer**. The period is named after **Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340–1400)** because he was the greatest writer of this age.

Chaucer is called the **father of English poetry**. He made English an important language of literature. He wrote mainly in the **London dialect**. His poetry is simple, musical, and close to real life.

Why Chaucer is Called the Father of English Poetry

Chaucer is called the father of English poetry for several reasons.

First, he chose **English** for serious literary writing when many writers preferred French or Latin. His use of the London dialect helped make it an important form of literary English.

Second, he improved English poetry by using new verse forms. He introduced the **rhyme royal** and **heroic couplet** into English poetry.

Third, he moved poetry away from only religious teaching and allegory. He wrote about **real people, their lives, habits, and problems**.

Chaucer became a great poet because he combined good language with a realistic picture of society.

The Three Periods of Chaucer's Life

Chaucer's literary career is usually divided into **three periods**.

1. French Period (1359–1372)

This was the early period of Chaucer's career. French literature had a strong influence on him.

He wrote or translated works such as:

- **The Romaunt of the Rose**
- **The Book of the Duchess**

The main features of this period are **dreams, allegory, and courtly love**.

This period can be remembered as:

French Period = Imitation

2. Italian Period (1372–1385)

Chaucer visited Italy and came under the influence of great Italian writers such as **Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio**.

During this period, he wrote:

- **The House of Fame**
- **The Parliament of Fowls**
- **Troilus and Criseyde**

Troilus and Criseyde is one of his important early works. It shows better characterization and a deeper understanding of human feelings.

This period can be remembered as:

Italian Period = Improvement

3. English Period (1385–1400)

This was the mature period of Chaucer's career.

He became more original and wrote about English society from his own experience.

His greatest work, **The Canterbury Tales**, belongs to this period.

This period can be remembered as:

English Period = Originality

So, the easy formula is:

French = Imitation → Italian = Improvement → English = Originality

The Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales is Chaucer's **masterpiece**. It is one of the greatest works of English literature.

Chaucer began writing it around **1387**.

The story begins at the **Tabard Inn** in Southwark. **Twenty-nine pilgrims** and Chaucer himself meet there. They are going to Canterbury to visit the shrine of **St Thomas à Becket**.

The owner of the inn, **Harry Bailly**, suggests a storytelling competition.

Each pilgrim was supposed to tell:

- **2 stories on the way to Canterbury**
- **2 stories on the way back**

So, the plan was about **120 stories**.

But Chaucer completed only **24 stories**. Therefore, **The Canterbury Tales is unfinished**.

The work begins with the famous **General Prologue**. In it, Chaucer introduces the pilgrims and describes their appearance, character, work, and social position.

The stories are very different. Some are serious, while others are funny. For example, **The Knight's Tale** is a noble romance, while **The Nun's Priest's Tale** is a humorous animal story.

Chaucer as a Representative Poet

Chaucer is called a **representative poet** because he gives a broad picture of 14th-century English society.

His pilgrims come from different social groups.

The **Knight, Squire, and Yeoman** represent the world of soldiers and chivalry.

The **Prioress, Monk, Friar, Summoner, and Pardoner** represent the Church. Chaucer shows the weakness, greed, and corruption of some of them.

The **Merchant, Wife of Bath, Doctor, Man of Law, and Franklin** represent the growing middle class.

The **Ploughman and Cook** represent ordinary and poorer people.

Chaucer does not directly attack these people. He uses **humour and irony**. He shows their good and bad sides and allows the reader to judge them.

Through the pilgrims, he shows the **life, customs, occupations, and social changes** of 14th-century England.

Other Important Writers of the Age

Chaucer was not the only important writer of this period.

William Langland wrote **Piers Plowman**. It is a serious moral and religious poem.

John Gower was known as “**Moral Gower**”. His important work is **Confessio Amantis**.

John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English and helped the development of English religious writing.

Sir John Mandeville is traditionally connected with **The Travels of Sir John Mandeville**, an early English prose work.

After Chaucer, many writers simply copied his style. Therefore, the **15th century** is often called a **barren age**.

Key Works

Some of the most important works of the age are:

- **The Canterbury Tales** — Geoffrey Chaucer
- **Troilus and Criseyde** — Geoffrey Chaucer
- **Piers Plowman** — William Langland
- **Confessio Amantis** — John Gower
- **The Travels of Sir John Mandeville** — Sir John Mandeville

Major Writers

The most important writers to remember are:

- Geoffrey Chaucer
 - William Langland
 - John Gower
 - John Wycliffe
 - Sir John Mandeville
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পরীক্ষার জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়

Part C — বড় প্রশ্ন

এই অধ্যায় থেকে বিশেষভাবে প্রস্তুতি নেবে:

1. Why is Chaucer called the father of English poetry?
2. Describe the three periods of Chaucer's literary career.
3. Chaucer as a representative poet.
4. The picture of 14th-century English life in *The Canterbury Tales*.

৩ ও ৪ নম্বর প্রশ্নের অনেক অংশ একইভাবে লেখা যায়, কারণ *The Canterbury Tales*-এর মাধ্যমে Chaucer 14th-century English society-এর ছবি তুলে ধরেছেন।

Part B — সংক্ষিপ্ত রচনামূলক প্রশ্ন

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দাও:

1. The composition of *The Canterbury Tales*
2. *The Nun's Priest's Tale*

Part A — অতি সংক্ষিপ্ত প্রশ্ন

এগুলো ভালোভাবে মনে রাখবে:

- Who is called the father of English poetry?
- Who wrote *The Canterbury Tales*?
- What is Chaucer's masterpiece?
- When did the Age of Chaucer begin?
- What is *The Canterbury Tales*?
- How many pilgrims are there in the poem?
- How many tales were planned?
- How many tales did Chaucer complete?
- Who wrote *Morte d'Arthur*?
- Who was Sir John Mandeville?

খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ Formula

French Period (1359–1372) → Imitation

Italian Period (1372–1385) → Improvement

English Period (1385–1400) → Originality

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

চতুর্দশ শতকের দ্বিতীয় ভাগকে **Age of Chaucer** বলা হয়। কারণ এই সময়ের সবচেয়ে বড় কবি ছিলেন **Geoffrey Chaucer**। তাঁকে ইংরেজি কবিতার জনক বলা হয়।

Chaucer-এর তিনটি বড় অবদান ছিল। তিনি সাহিত্যে **English** ভাষা ব্যবহার করেন, English কবিতায় নতুন ছন্দের ব্যবহার করেন এবং কবিতায় বাস্তব জীবনের মানুষ ও সমাজের ছবি তুলে ধরেন।

তাঁর সাহিত্যজীবন তিন ভাগে বিভক্ত।

French Period (১৩৫৯–১৩৭২) — এই সময়ে French সাহিত্যের প্রভাব বেশি ছিল। তাই একে **Imitation** বা অনুকরণের সময় বলা হয়।

Italian Period (১৩৭২–১৩৮৫) — Italy ভ্রমণের পর Dante, Petrarch ও Boccaccio-এর প্রভাব পান। তাঁর লেখার মান আরও উন্নত হয়। তাই এটি **Improvement**-এর সময়।

English Period (১৩৮৫–১৪০০) — এই সময়ে Chaucer নিজের মতো করে লিখতে শুরু করেন। তাঁর সবচেয়ে বড় রচনা **The Canterbury Tales** এই সময়ের।

The Canterbury Tales হলো Chaucer-এর masterpiece। এতে ২৯ জন pilgrim এবং Chaucer নিজে Canterbury যাওয়ার পথে একসঙ্গে থাকে। **Harry Bailly** গল্প বলার প্রতিযোগিতার প্রস্তাব দেয়। প্রত্যেকের যাওয়ার পথে ২টি এবং ফেরার পথে ২টি করে গল্প বলার কথা ছিল। অর্থাৎ মোট প্রায় ১২০টি গল্প হওয়ার কথা ছিল। কিন্তু Chaucer মাত্র ২৪টি গল্প শেষ করতে পেরেছিলেন। তাই বইটি অসম্পূর্ণ।

Chaucer-এর **General Prologue**-এ বিভিন্ন শ্রেণির মানুষের পরিচয় পাওয়া যায়। Knight, Squire, Yeoman, Church-এর লোক, Merchant, Wife of Bath, Doctor, Ploughman—এভাবে সমাজের বিভিন্ন মানুষের ছবি তিনি দেখিয়েছেন।

এ কারণে Chaucer-কে **representative poet** বলা হয়। তিনি ১৪শ শতকের ইংল্যান্ডের মানুষের জীবন, পেশা, সামাজিক অবস্থা ও বিভিন্ন সমস্যা তুলে ধরেছেন।

Chaucer সরাসরি কাউকে আক্রমণ করেননি। তিনি হাস্যরস ও ব্যঙ্গ ব্যবহার করে মানুষের ভালো-মন্দ দেখিয়েছেন।

এই যুগের আরও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ লেখক হলেন **William Langland, John Gower, John Wycliffe** এবং **Sir John Mandeville**।

Langland-এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রচনা **Piers Plowman**।

Gower-এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রচনা **Confessio Amantis**।

Wycliffe Bible ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করেন।

Mandeville-এর সঙ্গে যুক্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রচনা **The Travels of Sir John Mandeville**।

Chaucer-এর পর ১৫শ শতকে অনেক লেখক তাঁর লেখার অনুকরণ করেন। তাই এই সময়কে অনেক সময় **barren age** বলা হয়।

এক লাইনে মনে রাখো:

Chaucer = Father of English Poetry

French = Imitation

Italian = Improvement

English = Originality

The Canterbury Tales = Chaucer's Masterpiece

Chaucer = Representative Poet

3. **Reformation Period (1500–1558)**

What Was the Reformation?

The **Reformation** was a great religious movement in 16th-century Europe. It protested against the corruption and excessive power of the **Roman Catholic Church**. It led to the rise of the **Protestant Churches**.

The Reformation began in **Germany in 1517**. **Martin Luther** started the movement by putting his **Ninety-five Theses** on a church door in Wittenberg.

He strongly opposed the sale of **indulgences**. Indulgences were pardons for sins that were sold for money.

The main ideas of the Reformation were simple:

- The **Bible**, not the Pope, should be the highest authority.
- People should be able to read the Bible in their **own language**.
- Salvation comes through **faith**, not by paying money.

- Religious worship should be **simple** and should not depend on many images and ceremonies.

The words **Protestant** and **Protestantism** came from the idea of protest against the old Church.

Why the Reformation Happened in England

The English Reformation had both **religious and political reasons**.

The most immediate reason was connected with **King Henry VIII**. Henry wanted to divorce **Catherine of Aragon** and marry **Anne Boleyn**. The Pope refused to give him permission.

As a result, Henry VIII broke with the Pope.

In **1534**, he passed the **Act of Supremacy**. It made the English king the **Supreme Head of the Church of England** instead of the Pope.

Henry also closed many monasteries and took their wealth.

However, there were other important reasons behind the English Reformation.

The Church had become corrupt. Many people were unhappy about sending money to Rome. National feeling was growing. The **Renaissance** encouraged people to study and question old ideas. The **printing press** helped new ideas spread quickly.

The earlier religious movement of **John Wycliffe and the Lollards** also prepared the way for the Reformation.

So, the English Reformation was caused by a mixture of **religion, politics, money, and new ideas**.

The English Bible and the Growth of Prose

One of the greatest literary results of the Reformation was the growth of the **English Bible**.

John Wycliffe had made an English translation of the Bible in the 14th century.

Later, **William Tyndale** translated the New Testament into English. His translation was printed in **1526**.

Tyndale was punished for his work. He was executed in **1536**.

His translation later influenced the **Great Bible (1539)** and the **King James Version (1611)**.

Miles Coverdale produced the first complete printed English Bible.

Thomas Cranmer wrote the **Book of Common Prayer (1549)**. It became an important work of English religious prose.

The development of printing also helped English literature greatly.

William Caxton set up the first English printing press at **Westminster in 1476**. He printed many books, including works by **Chaucer and Malory**.

Printing helped to make spelling more regular. It also helped the **London dialect** become the standard form of English.

Anglicanism

The Church that developed after the English Reformation is called **Anglicanism**, or the **Church of England**.

It was Protestant in its basic beliefs, but it kept some older Church traditions. It kept bishops, formal worship, and some traditional ceremonies.

Therefore, Anglicanism was often described as a **via media**, meaning a **middle way** between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism.

Elizabeth I later established this religious settlement in **1559**.

The Rise of Puritanism

Some Protestants thought that the English Church had not been reformed enough.

They wanted to remove all remaining Catholic traditions from the Church. They wanted to make the Church more simple and pure.

These people were called **Puritans**.

The Puritans supported:

- Simple worship
- Strict moral behaviour
- Hard work
- Keeping the Sabbath
- The Bible as the main guide

They also strongly disliked the **theatre**.

Their influence became stronger during the next century. In **1642**, the theatres were closed under Puritan influence.

The growth of Puritanism later became an important part of the **Puritan Age**.

Literature of the Reformation Period

Literary writing was not very strong during this period because people were mainly concerned with **religion and politics**.

Still, some important works appeared.

Sir Thomas More wrote **Utopia (1516)** in Latin. It describes an imaginary island with an ideal society. The word **utopia** comes from this work.

Sir Thomas Wyatt introduced the **sonnet** into English poetry.

The **Earl of Surrey** introduced **blank verse** into English poetry.

The poems of Wyatt and Surrey were published in **Tottel's Miscellany (1557)**. It was the first printed collection of English poetry.

John Foxe wrote **Book of Martyrs**, which describes the suffering of Protestants.

Thus, the Reformation period was more important for the **development of English prose, religious writing, Bible translation, and printing** than for creative poetry and drama.

Key Works

Some of the most important works are:

- **Utopia (1516)** — Sir Thomas More
- **Tyndale's New Testament (1526)** — William Tyndale
- **The Great Bible (1539)**
- **The Book of Common Prayer (1549)** — Thomas Cranmer
- **Tottel's Miscellany (1557)**

Major Writers

The most important writers to remember are:

- William Tyndale
 - William Caxton
 - Sir Thomas More
 - Sir Thomas Wyatt
 - Earl of Surrey
 - Thomas Cranmer
 - John Foxe
-

পরীক্ষার জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়

Part C — বড় প্রশ্ন

বিশেষভাবে প্রস্তুতি নেবে:

1. The Reformation and its impact on English literature
2. Milton as a combination of Renaissance and Reformation ideas

Part B — সংক্ষিপ্ত রচনামূলক প্রশ্ন

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দাও:

1. The Reformation
2. Causes of the Reformation in England
3. Anglicanism
4. Rise of Puritanism

Part A — অতি সংক্ষিপ্ত প্রশ্ন

এগুলো ভালোভাবে মনে রাখবে:

- Reformation কী?
- প্রথম English Bible কে অনুবাদ করেন?
- William Tyndale কে ছিলেন?
- William Caxton কে ছিলেন?
- Lollards কার অনুসারী ছিল?
- Act of Supremacy কী?
- Anglicanism কী?
- Puritans কারা?
- English sonnet কে আনেন?
- Blank verse কে English poetry-তে আনেন?

খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখ

1476 — Caxton's printing press

1517 — Martin Luther and the Reformation

1526 — Tyndale's New Testament

1534 — Act of Supremacy

1549 — Book of Common Prayer

1557 — Tottel's Miscellany

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Reformation ছিল ১৬শ শতকের একটি বড় ধর্মীয় আন্দোলন। Roman Catholic Church-এর দুর্নীতি ও অতিরিক্ত ক্ষমতার বিরুদ্ধে এই আন্দোলন শুরু হয়। এর ফলে **Protestant Church**-এর জন্ম হয়।

১৫১৭ সালে **Germany**-তে **Martin Luther** এই আন্দোলন শুরু করেন। তিনি Church-এর **indulgence** বিক্রির বিরোধিতা করেন। তাঁর মতে, **Bible**-ই সবচেয়ে বড় ধর্মীয় **authority**, Pope নয়। মানুষ নিজের ভাষায় Bible পড়বে এবং faith-এর মাধ্যমে salvation পাবে।

England-এ Reformation-এর সবচেয়ে বড় তাৎক্ষণিক কারণ ছিল **Henry VIII**। তিনি Catherine of Aragon-কে divorce করে Anne Boleyn-কে বিয়ে করতে চেয়েছিলেন। Pope অনুমতি না দেওয়ায় Henry Pope-এর সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক ছিন্ন করেন।

১৫৩৪ সালে **Act of Supremacy** পাস করে Henry VIII নিজেকে Church of England-এর প্রধান করেন। এরপর England-এ Protestant Reformation শক্তিশালী হয়।

তবে শুধু Henry-এর ব্যক্তিগত কারণেই Reformation হয়নি। Church-এর দুর্নীতি, Rome-এ টাকা দেওয়ার বিরোধিতা, জাতীয়তাবোধ, Renaissance-এর নতুন চিন্তা, printing press এবং **Wycliffe** ও **Lollards**-দের আগের আন্দোলনও গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কারণ ছিল।

Reformation-এর সবচেয়ে বড় সাহিত্যিক অবদান হলো **English Bible**।

John Wycliffe ১৪শ শতকে Bible ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করেন। পরে **William Tyndale** New Testament ইংরেজিতে অনুবাদ করেন এবং ১৫২৬ সালে তা মুদ্রিত হয়। তাঁর কাজ পরবর্তী English Bible-গুলোকে অনেক প্রভাবিত করে।

William Caxton ১৪৭৬ সালে Westminster-এ প্রথম English printing press স্থাপন করেন। Printing press-এর কারণে বই সহজে ছড়াতে থাকে এবং English-এর spelling ও London dialect আরও standard হয়।

Reformation-এর পর **Anglicanism** বা Church of England গড়ে ওঠে। এটি Protestant হলেও কিছু পুরোনো Church tradition, bishop ও ceremony রেখে দেয়। তাই একে **middle way** বা **via media** বলা হয়।

যাঁরা মনে করতেন Church-কে আরও বেশি পরিবর্তন করা দরকার, তাঁদের বলা হয় **Puritans**। তাঁরা simple worship, strict morality, hard work এবং Bible-এর ওপর বেশি গুরুত্ব দিতেন। তাঁরা theatre-ও পছন্দ করতেন না।

এই সময়ের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সাহিত্যকর্মের মধ্যে **Sir Thomas More-এর Utopia**, **Tyndale's New Testament**, **Book of Common Prayer**, **Tottel's Miscellany** এবং **Book of Martyrs** উল্লেখযোগ্য।

Sir Thomas Wyatt English poetry-তে **sonnet** আনেন এবং **Earl of Surrey blank verse** জনপ্রিয় করেন।

এক লাইনে মনে রাখো:

1517 → Martin Luther → Reformation

Henry VIII → Act of Supremacy → 1534

Tyndale → New Testament → 1526

Caxton → Printing Press → 1476

Wyatt → Sonnet

Surrey → Blank Verse

Puritans → Simple Church + Anti-theatre

4. **Renaissance: Elizabethan, Jacobean & Puritan Period (1558–1660)**

What Was the Renaissance?

The word **Renaissance** means “**rebirth**.” It was a revival of Greek and Roman learning, art and ideas. It began in Italy in the 14th century and became strong in England during the reign of **Elizabeth I**.

The Renaissance changed the way people thought. People became more interested in human life, knowledge, beauty and personal achievement.

There were four important features of the Renaissance:

1. **Humanism** – It gave importance to human life, reason, beauty and achievement.
2. **Curiosity** – People wanted to discover new lands and new scientific ideas.
3. **Individualism** – People gave more importance to personal ambition and success.
4. **Love of Beauty** – Writers loved beautiful language, poetry, art and classical stories.

Marlowe's Doctor Faustus is a good example of the Renaissance spirit. Faustus wants unlimited knowledge and power. He is ready to sell his soul to achieve his goal.

Why Is the Elizabethan Age Called the Golden Age?

The reign of **Elizabeth I (1558–1603)** is called the **Golden Age of English literature**.

There are several reasons:

1. **Peace and Stability:** England became more peaceful after years of religious conflict.
2. **Religious Settlement:** Elizabeth established a religious settlement in 1559.
3. **Defeat of Spanish Armada:** England defeated the Spanish Armada in **1588**. This increased national pride.
4. **Trade and Exploration:** Trade and sea voyages increased England's wealth.
5. **Queen Elizabeth's Support:** Elizabeth herself loved literature, music and drama. Writers received support from the royal court.
6. **Growth of Printing:** Printing made books easier and cheaper to obtain.
7. **Development of English:** The English language became rich, flexible and expressive.
8. **Growth of Drama:** English drama developed into a great literary art.

During this period, **poetry, drama, essays and tragedy** reached a very high level.

Growth of English Drama

English drama developed gradually.

1. Miracle and Mystery Plays

These were religious plays. They were often performed by trade guilds. They presented stories from the Bible and Christian religion.

2. Morality Plays

Morality plays taught moral lessons. Their characters were often ideas or qualities rather than real people.

For example, characters could be **Good Deeds, Death or Mercy**.

The best example is **Everyman**.

3. Interlude

The **Interlude** was a short play. It was often humorous and less religious than earlier plays.

4. Classical Influence

English writers became interested in Greek and Roman drama.

This influence produced the first regular English comedy and tragedy.

- **Ralph Roister Doister** by Nicholas Udall – first regular English comedy.
 - **Gorboduc** by Thomas Sackville and Thomas Norton – first regular English tragedy.
 - **Gorboduc** was also the first English play written in **blank verse**.
-

The University Wits

The **University Wits** were educated young writers connected with Oxford and Cambridge. They wrote for the public stage in the 1580s and helped prepare the way for Shakespeare.

Important University Wits include:

- Christopher Marlowe
- Robert Greene
- Thomas Lodge
- George Peele
- Thomas Nashe
- John Lyly
- Thomas Kyd

Their Important Contributions

Christopher Marlowe developed powerful blank verse. His style is often called the “**mighty line**.”

Thomas Kyd became famous for the revenge tragedy **The Spanish Tragedy**.

John Lyly was famous for elegant and courtly comedy.

The University Wits helped make English drama more powerful and popular.

The Globe Theatre

The **Globe Theatre** was built in **1599** in London.

It was an open-air public theatre. It was mainly made of wood.

Important features of the theatre were:

- It had a simple stage.
- There was little or no scenery.
- Boys played female characters.
- Poor people stood in the yard.
- The audience was close to the actors.

Because there was little scenery, Shakespeare and other dramatists had to create places and situations mainly through **words and imagination**.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is the greatest dramatist of the English Renaissance.

He was born at **Stratford-upon-Avon** in **1564** and died in **1616**.

He wrote about **37 plays and 154 sonnets**.

Shakespeare's Main Contributions

1. He created characters that feel like real human beings.
2. He used the English language with great skill.
3. He wrote great tragedies, comedies and historical plays.
4. He showed deep knowledge of human psychology.
5. He created many memorable expressions and phrases.
6. He was successful in almost every type of drama.

His four greatest tragedies are:

- **Hamlet**
- **Othello**
- **King Lear**
- **Macbeth**

In these tragedies, a great person often falls because of a weakness or flaw in his character.

Shakespeare's career can be divided into three broad stages:

Comedy → Tragedy → Romance

His early works were often bright and humorous. Later, his tragedies became darker. His final plays moved towards forgiveness and reconciliation.

The Jacobean Age and Decadent Drama

After Elizabeth I, **James I** became king in **1603**.

His reign was from **1603 to 1625**. This period is called the **Jacobean Age**.

Drama became darker during this period. Writers often presented:

- Violence
- Murder
- Bloodshed
- Corruption
- Revenge
- Moral decline

John Webster's The Duchess of Malfi is an important example.

Other important Jacobean dramatists include:

- Thomas Middleton
- John Ford

Some of these plays are called **decadent plays** because they often focus heavily on violence, horror and moral corruption.

Gunpowder Plot

The **Gunpowder Plot of 1605** also belongs to the Jacobean period.

Guy Fawkes and some other Catholics planned to blow up the Parliament and kill the king. The plot failed.

Poetry and Prose

The Renaissance period was also very rich in poetry and prose.

Edmund Spenser

Edmund Spenser is called the “**Poet’s Poet.**”

His greatest work is:

The Faerie Queene

It is a long allegorical poem. Spenser used a special stanza form known as the **Spenserian stanza**.

Sir Philip Sidney

Sidney is famous for his sonnet sequence:

Astrophel and Stella

It helped establish the sonnet tradition in English literature.

Ben Jonson

Ben Jonson followed classical rules in his drama.

He is famous for the **Comedy of Humours**.

In this type of comedy, a character is controlled by one dominant quality or “humour.”

Important works:

- **Every Man in His Humour**

- Volpone
-

Francis Bacon

Francis Bacon is known as the **father of the English essay**.

He is also an important figure in the development of English prose.

His essays are short, clear and full of practical wisdom.

Important works:

- **Essays**
 - **The Advancement of Learning**
-

Metaphysical Poetry

John Donne was the leading Metaphysical poet.

Other important Metaphysical poets include:

- George Herbert
- Andrew Marvell
- Henry Vaughan
- Richard Crashaw
- Abraham Cowley

Main Features of Metaphysical Poetry

1. **Conceit** – An unusual and clever comparison between two very different things.
2. **Wit** – Clever and intelligent ideas.
3. **Argument** – The poems often develop an argument.
4. **Learning** – They use ideas from science, religion and philosophy.
5. **Passion and Thought** – Emotion and intellectual thinking are closely connected.
6. **Irregular Rhythm** – Their poetic rhythm is often unusual and flexible.

Dr Johnson later used the term “**Metaphysical Poets.**”

John Milton and the Puritan Age

John Milton was the greatest Puritan poet. He was also one of the last great Renaissance writers.

Important works of Milton include:

- **Lycidas**
- **Areopagitica**
- **Paradise Lost**

Areopagitica (1644) is a famous prose work defending freedom of the press.

Paradise Lost is Milton's great epic. Its main purpose is to “**justify the ways of God to men.**”

Milton combined two major forces of the period:

Renaissance → **classical learning, beauty and art**

Reformation → **religious faith, moral seriousness and Biblical ideas**

Therefore, Milton represents both the Renaissance spirit and the Puritan/Reformation spirit.

The Closing of the Theatres

In **1642**, the Puritans closed the theatres.

As a result, the great age of English drama came to an end.

Another important Puritan writer was **John Bunyan**.

His famous allegory is:

The Pilgrim's Progress

It tells the spiritual journey of **Christian** from the **City of Destruction** to the **Celestial City**.

Important places in the story include:

- Vanity Fair
 - Slough of Despond
-

Important Dates

Year	Event
1558	Elizabeth I became Queen
1588	Defeat of Spanish Armada
1599	Globe Theatre built
1603	James I became King
1605	Gunpowder Plot
1616	Shakespeare died
1642	Theatres were closed
1644	Milton's Areopagitica

Exam Tips

Part C-এর জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ

- Renaissance-এর প্রভাব ইংরেজি সাহিত্যে
- Elizabethan Age-কে Golden Age বলা হয় কেন
- University Wits ও তাঁদের অবদান
- Shakespeare-এর drama-তে অবদান
- Elizabethan literature-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য
- Metaphysical Poetry-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য
- Metaphysical Poets ও তাঁদের অবদান
- Decadent Play

Part B-এর জন্য

- Renaissance
- Golden Age
- University Wits
- Shakespeare
- Metaphysical Poetry
- Jacobean Drama
- Puritan Age

Part A-এর জন্য অবশ্যই মনে রাখবে

- Renaissance = **Re-birth**
 - Spanish Armada = **1588**
 - Globe Theatre = **1599**
 - First regular English comedy = **Ralph Roister Doister**
 - First regular English tragedy = **Gorboduc**
 - The Spanish Tragedy = **Thomas Kyd**
 - Poet's Poet = **Edmund Spenser**
 - Four great tragedies = **Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, Macbeth**
 - Conceit = **Metaphysical Poetry**-এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বৈশিষ্ট্য
 - Comedy of Humours = **Ben Jonson**
 - Areopagitica = **John Milton**
 - Gunpowder Plot = **1605**
 - Theatres closed = **1642**
-

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Renaissance মানে পুনর্জাগরণ বা পুনর্জন্ম। এই সময়ে মানুষ আবার Greek ও Roman জ্ঞান, শিল্প ও সাহিত্য নিয়ে আগ্রহী হয়। মানুষ নিজের জীবন, জ্ঞান, যুক্তি, সৌন্দর্য ও ব্যক্তিগত সাফল্যকে বেশি গুরুত্ব দিতে শুরু করে।

Elizabethan Age (1558–1603)-কে **Golden Age** বলা হয়। কারণ এই সময়ে ইংল্যান্ডে শান্তি, বাণিজ্য, শিক্ষা, মুদ্রণ ও সাহিত্য অনেক উন্নত হয়। **1588** সালে **Spanish Armada** পরাজিত হওয়ার পর ইংল্যান্ডের আত্মবিশ্বাস আরও বাড়ে। এই সময়ে Shakespeare-এর মতো মহান সাহিত্যিকের আবির্ভাব ঘটে।

ইংরেজি Drama প্রথমে **Miracle** ও **Mystery Play** থেকে শুরু হয়। এরপর **Morality Play, Interlude** এবং Classical Drama-এর প্রভাব আসে। **Ralph Roister Doister** প্রথম নিয়মিত English Comedy এবং **Gorboduc** প্রথম নিয়মিত English Tragedy।

এরপর **University Wits**-রা English Drama-কে আরও উন্নত করেন। তাঁদের মধ্যে **Marlowe, Kyd, Greene, Lyly** প্রমুখ গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। **Marlowe** শক্তিশালী blank verse ব্যবহার করেন এবং **Kyd** revenge tragedy-কে জনপ্রিয় করেন।

এরপর আসেন **Shakespeare**। তিনি English literature-এর সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ dramatist। তাঁর চারটি মহান tragedy হলো **Hamlet, Othello, King Lear** ও **Macbeth**।

James I-এর সময় **Jacobean Drama** আরও অন্ধকার হয়ে যায়। এতে হত্যা, রক্তপাত, দুর্নীতি ও নৈতিক অবক্ষয় বেশি দেখা যায়। **The Duchess of Malfi** এর একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ উদাহরণ।

Drama-এর পাশাপাশি Poetry ও Prose-ও উন্নত হয়। **Spenser**-এর *The Faerie Queene*, **Sidney**-এর *Astrophel and Stella*, **Ben Jonson**-এর Comedy of Humours এবং **Bacon**-এর Essays গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

John Donne ও অন্যান্য **Metaphysical Poets** তাঁদের বুদ্ধিদীপ্ত চিন্তা, conceit, wit এবং যুক্তির জন্য পরিচিত।

শেষদিকে **John Milton** Renaissance ও Puritan চিন্তার সমন্বয় করেন। তাঁর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ works হলো **Lycidas**, **Areopagitica** ও **Paradise Lost**।

1642 সালে **Puritans theatre** বন্ধ করে দেয়। এর মাধ্যমে Elizabethan drama-এর মহান যুগ শেষ হয়। **John Bunyan**-এর **The Pilgrim's Progress** Puritan সাহিত্যের অন্যতম গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কাজ।

এক লাইনে মনে রাখো

Renaissance → Re-birth

Elizabeth → Golden Age

1588 → Spanish Armada

1599 → Globe Theatre

Udall → Ralph Roister Doister → First Comedy

Sackville & Norton → Gorboduc → First Tragedy

Marlowe → Mighty Line

Kyd → The Spanish Tragedy → Revenge Play

Spenser → Poet's Poet

Shakespeare → Four Great Tragedies

Ben Jonson → Comedy of Humours

Bacon → English Essay

Donne → Metaphysical Poetry

Milton → Renaissance + Puritan

1642 → Theatres Closed

Bunyan → The Pilgrim's Progress

5. Restoration Period (1660–1700)

What Was Restored?

In **1660**, the monarchy was restored in England. **Charles II** returned from France and became king after about eleven years of Puritan rule under **Oliver Cromwell**.

This event gave the period its name: the **Restoration Period**.

The change in social life was very clear.

The Puritans were:

- Serious
- Strict
- Religious
- Simple

The new royal court was:

- Witty
- Pleasure-loving
- Fashionable
- Sceptical
- Less moral

The theatres, which had been closed since **1642**, were reopened.

Charles II and his court had spent years in France. Therefore, **French influence** became strong in English literature.

French ideas encouraged:

- Reason
- Wit
- Correctness
- Order
- Rules

The Glorious Revolution of 1688

The **Glorious Revolution** took place in **1688**.

James II was removed from the throne without a major battle. **William and Mary** were invited to rule England.

It is called “Glorious” because the change of power happened with very little bloodshed.

The Revolution was important because it strengthened **constitutional monarchy**.

Parliament became more powerful, and the king could no longer rule without limits.

The **Bill of Rights of 1689** was an important result of this change.

Main Characteristics of the Restoration Age

There are six major features of this period.

1. Realism

Writers moved away from romantic and ideal subjects.

They began to describe the **real life, manners and behaviour of London society**.

2. Reason and Wit

Reason became more important than imagination and strong emotion.

Writers valued **wit, intelligence and logical thinking**.

3. Correctness and Form

Writers followed rules and valued proper form.

The **heroic couplet** became the most important poetic form.

A heroic couplet consists of **two rhyming lines of iambic pentameter**.

4. Satire

Satire became very popular.

Writers used humour and criticism to attack political, social and religious problems.

5. Growth of Prose

English prose became clearer and simpler.

Writers preferred direct and practical sentences instead of the long and decorative style of earlier periods.

6. Moral Coarseness

The literature, especially drama, often became morally loose and openly sexual.

This later produced strong criticism against Restoration literature.

Comedy of Manners

The most important dramatic form of the Restoration Age is the **Comedy of Manners**.

It is also called **Restoration Comedy**.

It is a witty and satirical type of comedy. It presents the manners, fashions and behaviour of the upper-class society of London.

Main Features

1. **Witty Dialogue:** Characters speak in clever and polished language.
2. **Repartee:** Characters quickly answer each other with clever remarks.
3. **Love and Marriage:** Stories often focus on love, marriage and money.
4. **Intrigue:** Characters make plans and use tricks to achieve their goals.
5. **Stock Characters:** Common types include the **fop, rake, jealous husband and coquette**.
6. **Urban Setting:** Stories are often set in drawing-rooms, parks or fashionable meeting places.
7. **Satire:** Marriage, hypocrisy, fashion and false behaviour are often mocked.
8. **Sexual Freedom:** The plays often deal openly with sexual relationships.

Important Writers

William Congreve is the greatest writer of Comedy of Manners.

His **The Way of the World** is considered the finest example.

Other important writers are:

- William Wycherley – **The Country Wife**
 - George Etherege – **The Man of Mode**
 - John Vanbrugh
-

Women on the English Stage

Women appeared on the English stage during the Restoration period.

Before this time, female roles were generally played by boys.

Aphra Behn became an important female writer of the period. She is often remembered as the **first professional woman writer in English literature**.

John Dryden: The Great Writer of the Age

The Restoration Period is also called the **Age of Dryden**.

John Dryden was the leading literary figure of the period.

He worked in poetry, drama, translation and criticism.

Important Works

- **Absalom and Achitophel** – satire
- **Mac Flecknoe** – satire
- **All for Love** – heroic drama
- **Essay of Dramatic Poesy** – literary criticism

Dryden is called the **father of English criticism**.

He also helped establish the **heroic couplet** as the standard poetic form for the next century.

Other Important Writers

Samuel Butler

Samuel Butler wrote **Hudibras**.

It is a satirical poem that makes fun of the Puritans.

Samuel Pepys

Samuel Pepys is famous for his **Diary**.

His diary gives us a picture of everyday English life.

It also records important events such as:

- The **Plague of 1665**
 - The **Great Fire of London in 1666**
-

John Evelyn

John Evelyn also kept a diary.

His writings provide valuable information about seventeenth-century England.

Thomas Hobbes

Thomas Hobbes wrote **Leviathan**.

His work is important in the development of modern political philosophy.

John Locke

John Locke was another important thinker.

His political and philosophical writings helped shape modern ideas about government and society.

John Bunyan

John Bunyan's famous work is:

The Pilgrim's Progress

It was published in **1678**.

It is an allegory about the spiritual journey of a Christian.

Addison and Steele

At the end of the Restoration period, **Joseph Addison** and **Richard Steele** helped develop the **periodical essay**.

Richard Steele founded **The Tatler** in **1709**.

Later, Addison and Steele produced **The Spectator** in **1711**.

Their essays were:

- Short
- Simple
- Moral
- Conversational
- Easy to understand

They tried to improve the manners and taste of the growing middle class.

The character **Sir Roger de Coverley** became especially famous.

Their work also helped English prose move towards the development of the **novel**.

Important Dates

Year	Event
1660	Restoration of monarchy; Charles II became king
1665	Great Plague of London
1666	Great Fire of London
1678	The Pilgrim's Progress published
1688	Glorious Revolution
1689	Bill of Rights
1709	The Tatler
1711	The Spectator

Exam Tips

Part C-এর জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ

- Restoration-এর ঐতিহাসিক পটভূমি
- Restoration Age-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য
- Comedy of Manners
- Comedy of Manners-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য
- Restoration Drama
- Glorious Revolution

Part B-এর জন্য

- Restoration Age
- Comedy of Manners
- John Dryden
- Addison and Steele
- Glorious Revolution
- Restoration Age-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য

Part A-এর জন্য অবশ্যই মনে রাখবে

- Restoration = **1660**
- Restored King = **Charles II**

- Puritan ruler = **Oliver Cromwell**
 - Glorious Revolution = **1688**
 - Bill of Rights = **1689**
 - Comedy of Manners = **Restoration**-এর প্রধান নাট্যরূপ
 - The Way of the World = **William Congreve**
 - The Country Wife = **William Wycherley**
 - All for Love = **John Dryden**
 - Father of English Criticism = **John Dryden**
 - Heroic Couplet = দুইটি **rhyming iambic pentameter line**
 - Hudibras = **Samuel Butler**
 - Pepys = **Diary**
 - Leviathan = **Thomas Hobbes**
 - The Pilgrim's Progress = **John Bunyan**
 - Aphra Behn = প্রথম **professional woman writer** হিসেবে পরিচিত
-

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

১৬৬০ সালে **Charles II** ইংল্যান্ডের সিংহাসনে ফিরে আসেন। এর মাধ্যমে Oliver Cromwell-এর Puritan শাসনের অবসান হয় এবং রাজতন্ত্র আবার ফিরে আসে। এই ঘটনাকে বলা হয় **Restoration**। তাই এই সময়ের নাম **Restoration Period**।

Puritan যুগে জীবন ছিল কঠোর, ধর্মীয় ও গম্ভীর। কিন্তু Charles II-এর ফিরে আসার পর রাজদরবারে আনন্দ, ফ্যাশন, বুদ্ধিদীপ্ত কথা ও ভোগবিলাস বেশি দেখা যায়। ১৬৪২ সালে বন্ধ হওয়া **theatre** আবার খুলে যায়।

Charles II অনেক বছর France-এ ছিলেন। তাই এই সময়ে **French influence** শক্তিশালী হয়। সাহিত্যিকরা **reason, wit, correctness** ও **rules**-কে বেশি গুরুত্ব দেন।

১৬৮৮ সালের **Glorious Revolution**-এ James II ক্ষমতা হারান এবং William ও Mary শাসক হন। এর ফলে Parliament-এর ক্ষমতা বাড়ে এবং constitutional monarchy শক্তিশালী হয়। পরের বছর **1689** সালে **Bill of Rights** গৃহীত হয়।

এই যুগের প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য হলো **realism, reason, wit, correctness, satire**, উন্নত **prose** এবং **moral looseness**।

এই সময়ের সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ নাট্যরূপ হলো **Comedy of Manners**। এতে London-এর উচ্চশ্রেণির মানুষের প্রেম, বিয়ে, টাকা, ফ্যাশন, ভণ্ডামি ও সামাজিক আচরণকে হাস্যরসের মাধ্যমে ব্যঙ্গ করা হয়। **William Congreve**-এর **The Way of the World** এর সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ উদাহরণ।

এই সময়ে **Aphra Behn** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হয়ে ওঠেন এবং ইংরেজি সাহিত্যের প্রথম professional woman writer হিসেবে পরিচিত হন।

John Dryden ছিলেন এই যুগের সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সাহিত্যিক। তাই এই যুগকে **Age of Dryden**-ও বলা হয়। তাঁর **Absalom and Achitophel**, **Mac Flecknoe**, **All for Love** এবং **Essay of Dramatic Poesy** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তিনি English criticism-এর অন্যতম প্রধান পথপ্রদর্শক এবং heroic couplet-কে জনপ্রিয় করেন।

Samuel Pepys-এর **Diary** থেকে সেই সময়ের জীবন ও **1665** সালের **plague** এবং **1666** সালের **Great Fire of London** সম্পর্কে জানা যায়। **Thomas Hobbes**-এর **Leviathan** রাজনৈতিক দর্শনের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ গ্রন্থ। **John Bunyan**-এর **The Pilgrim's Progress** Puritan সাহিত্যের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ allegory।

যুগের শেষে **Addison** ও **Steele** periodical essay-কে জনপ্রিয় করেন। তাঁদের **The Tatler** ও **The Spectator** সহজ ভাষায় সমাজ, নৈতিকতা ও ভালো আচরণ নিয়ে লিখত।

এক লাইনে মনে রাখো

1660 → **Restoration** → **Charles II**

1665 → **Plague**

1666 → **Great Fire of London**

1688 → **Glorious Revolution**

1689 → **Bill of Rights**

Congreve → **The Way of the World** → **Comedy of Manners**

Dryden → **Age of Dryden** → **Heroic Couplet**

Pepys → **Diary**

Hobbes → **Leviathan**

Bunyan → **The Pilgrim's Progress**

1709 → **The Tatler**

1711 → **The Spectator**

6. Neoclassical Age (1700–1798)

Why Is It Called the Neoclassical Age?

The word **Neoclassical** means “**new classical**.”

The writers of the 18th century admired the great writers of ancient Greece and Rome. They followed classical writers such as:

- Homer
- Virgil
- Horace
- Juvenal

They believed that literature should follow **rules, order and good form**.

The age is also called the **Augustan Age**. It was named after the Roman Emperor **Augustus**, whose time was considered a great period of Roman literature.

Other names for the period are:

- **Age of Reason**
- **Age of Prose**

The period is also divided into:

- **Age of Pope** – about 1700–1745
 - **Age of Johnson** – about 1745–1798
-

Main Characteristics of Neoclassical Poetry

The main features of Neoclassical poetry are:

1. Reason and Intellect

Writers gave more importance to **reason and intelligence** than emotion and imagination.

So, Neoclassical poetry is often called “**head poetry**” rather than “**heart poetry**.”

2. Interest in Society

Poets wrote about:

- Human behaviour
- Society

- City life
- Manners
- Morality

They were less interested in wild nature or personal feelings.

Pope expressed this idea in:

“The proper study of Mankind is Man.”

3. Heroic Couplet

The **heroic couplet** became the most popular poetic form.

It consists of **two rhyming lines of iambic pentameter**.

4. Rules and Correctness

Neoclassical writers valued:

- Correctness
- Order
- Balance
- Decorum
- Classical rules

They often valued following rules more than originality.

5. Satire and Didacticism

Satire was extremely popular.

Writers used satire to criticize human weaknesses and social problems.

Poetry was also often **didactic**, meaning that it tried to teach or correct people.

6. Classical Allusions

Writers often referred to Greek and Roman mythology and history.

7. Formal Style

The language was formal and carefully controlled.

Poets often used special **poetic diction** instead of ordinary words.

For example, they might use “**finny tribe**” instead of simply saying “fish.”

8. Urban and Witty Tone

The poetry was often:

- Urban
- Witty
- Intellectual
- Impersonal

The major weakness was that the poetry could become too artificial and lack deep emotion.

Alexander Pope

Alexander Pope is the representative poet of the Neoclassical Age.

He was the greatest master of the **heroic couplet** and one of the greatest satirists in English literature.

His important works include:

- **An Essay on Criticism**
- **The Rape of the Lock**
- **An Essay on Man**
- **The Dunciad**
- Translations of **Homer**

The Rape of the Lock

The Rape of the Lock is a famous **mock-heroic poem**.

Pope takes a small social event—the cutting of a lady's lock of hair—and treats it like a great heroic event.

Through this humorous method, he makes fun of the pride and foolishness of upper-class society.

Pope is also famous for many memorable lines, such as:

“A little learning is a dangerous thing.”

and

“To err is human, to forgive divine.”

Jonathan Swift and Satire

Jonathan Swift was the greatest prose satirist of the age.

His satire is often very sharp and powerful.

Important Works

Gulliver's Travels

It appears to be an adventure story, but it also strongly criticizes human society and human nature.

A Tale of a Tub

It attacks religious disputes and human foolishness.

A Modest Proposal

This is one of the strongest examples of **irony** in English literature.

Swift uses a shocking suggestion to expose the suffering of the Irish people and the failure of those in power.

Why Was Satire So Popular?

Satire became popular because the 18th century had:

- Political conflicts
- Religious disputes
- Social inequality
- Literary quarrels
- Social pretension

Writers believed that they could correct people's faults by making those faults look ridiculous.

Age of Prose

The 18th century is often called the **Age of Prose**.

Prose became more important than poetry.

Addison and Steele

Joseph Addison and **Richard Steele** developed the **periodical essay**.

Important publications:

- **The Tatler** – 1709
- **The Spectator** – 1711

These essays were:

- Short
- Simple
- Humorous
- Moral
- Conversational

They were often read by people in coffee-houses.

Sir Roger de Coverley

Sir Roger de Coverley is the most famous character connected with *The Spectator*.

He is a simple, kind and old-fashioned country gentleman.

Through him, Addison and Steele presented the manners and behaviour of contemporary society.

Their essays helped prepare the way for the development of the **English novel**.

Dr Samuel Johnson

Dr Samuel Johnson was the greatest literary figure of the second half of the 18th century.

He is associated with the **Age of Johnson**.

Important Works

- **A Dictionary of the English Language (1755)**
- **Lives of the Poets**
- **Rasselas**

Johnson worked for years on his famous dictionary and played an important role in the development of English literary criticism.

His life was later recorded by **James Boswell** in:

The Life of Samuel Johnson

It is one of the most famous biographies in English literature.

Other Prose Writers

Edmund Burke

Edmund Burke was famous for his **political prose**.

Edward Gibbon

Edward Gibbon wrote:

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

It is one of the great historical works in English.

Drama in the 18th Century

Drama became less important than it had been in the Elizabethan period.

However, **Richard Brinsley Sheridan** and **Oliver Goldsmith** helped revive comedy.

Important works:

- Sheridan – **The School for Scandal**
- Goldsmith – **She Stoops to Conquer**

They brought back comedy in a cleaner and more pleasant form.

Transitional or Pre-Romantic Poets

Some poets began to move away from strict Neoclassical rules.

Important names include:

- James Thomson
- Thomas Gray
- William Collins
- William Cowper

They wrote more about:

- Nature
- The countryside
- Human feelings
- Melancholy

Therefore, they are often called **transitional or pre-Romantic poets**.

They helped prepare the way for the Romantic Age and **William Wordsworth**.

The Rise of the English Novel

The birth of the **English novel** was one of the greatest literary events of the 18th century.

Several social changes helped the novel develop.

Main Reasons

1. The **middle class** became richer.
2. People had more leisure time.

3. More people learned to read.
 4. More women became readers.
 5. **Circulating libraries** made books easier to access.
 6. Periodical essays taught writers how to describe everyday life and characters.
 7. People became more interested in the inner life of ordinary individuals.
-

Four Important Pioneers of the Novel

1. Daniel Defoe

Defoe is famous for:

Robinson Crusoe (1719)

and

Moll Flanders

His novels use realistic details and often use first-person narration.

2. Samuel Richardson

Richardson wrote:

Pamela (1740)

It is usually regarded as the **first true English novel**.

It is written in the form of letters. This form is called the **epistolary form**.

Richardson also wrote:

Clarissa

His novels focus strongly on the feelings and inner life of the characters.

3. Henry Fielding

Fielding first wrote:

Joseph Andrews

His greatest novel is:

Tom Jones

He called it a “**comic epic poem in prose.**”

It presents a wide and humorous picture of English society.

4. Laurence Sterne

Sterne wrote:

Tristram Shandy

It is unusual because Sterne plays with time, structure and narrative form.

Women Novelists

Women writers also became important in the 18th century.

Fanny Burney

Her famous novel is:

Evelina

It presents the experiences of a young woman in society.

Ann Radcliffe

She became famous for the **Gothic novel**.

Her important work is:

The Mysteries of Udolpho

Maria Edgeworth

She was another important woman novelist.

These writers helped prepare the way for **Jane Austen**.

Important Dates

Year	Event
1709	The Tatler
1711	The Spectator
1719	Robinson Crusoe
1740	Pamela
1755	Johnson's Dictionary
1798	Beginning of the Romantic Age

Exam Tips

Part C-এর জন্য গুরুত্বপূর্ণ

- Neoclassical poetry-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য
- 18th-century prose ও Age of Reason
- Alexander Pope-এর works ও contribution
- Pope ও Dryden-এর satire
- 18th century-তে satire-এর বিকাশ
- Rise of the English Novel

Part B-এর জন্য

- Neoclassicism
- Alexander Pope
- Sir Roger de Coverley
- Women novelists
- Rise of the Novel

- Age of Prose

Part A-এর জন্য অবশ্যই মনে রাখবে

- Neoclassical = **New Classical**
- Augustan Age = **Age of Pope / Neoclassical Age**
- Age of Reason = **18th century**
- Age of Prose = **18th century**
- Representative poet = **Alexander Pope**
- Pope → **Heroic Couplet + Satire**
- The Rape of the Lock → **Mock-heroic poem**
- Swift → **Gulliver's Travels**
- Addison & Steele → **The Spectator**
- The Spectator → **1711**
- The Tatler → **1709**
- Sir Roger de Coverley → **The Spectator**
- Robinson Crusoe → **Daniel Defoe**
- Pamela → **Samuel Richardson**
- Tom Jones → **Henry Fielding**
- Tristram Shandy → **Laurence Sterne**
- Dictionary → **Dr Samuel Johnson**
- The School for Scandal → **Sheridan**
- She Stoops to Conquer → **Oliver Goldsmith**
- Gothic novel → **Ann Radcliffe**

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Neoclassical Age মানে নতুন **Classical** যুগ। এই সময়ের লেখকেরা প্রাচীন Greek ও Roman সাহিত্যকে আদর্শ মনে করতেন। তাঁরা নিয়ম, যুক্তি, শৃঙ্খলা ও সঠিক রচনামূল্যকে বেশি গুরুত্ব দিতেন।

এই যুগকে **Augustan Age**, **Age of Reason** এবং **Age of Prose**-ও বলা হয়। আবার একে **Age of Pope** এবং **Age of Johnson**—এই দুই ভাগে দেখা হয়।

Neoclassical কবিতায় **reason** ও **intellect** আবেগ ও কল্পনার চেয়ে বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। কবিরা মানুষের সমাজ, শহরের জীবন, আচরণ ও নৈতিকতা নিয়ে লিখতেন। **Heroic couplet** ছিল প্রধান ছন্দ। **Satire** ও **didacticism** ছিল খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। ভাষা ছিল formal ও নিয়ম মেনে তৈরি।

এই যুগের প্রধান কবি **Alexander Pope**। তিনি heroic couplet-এর শ্রেষ্ঠ ব্যবহারকারী এবং একজন বিখ্যাত satirist। তাঁর **The Rape of the Lock** একটি famous mock-heroic poem।

Jonathan Swift ছিলেন এই যুগের সবচেয়ে শক্তিশালী prose satirist। তাঁর **Gulliver's Travels** দেখতে adventure story হলেও এর মধ্যে মানুষের সমাজ ও স্বভাবের কঠোর সমালোচনা আছে। **A Modest Proposal** তাঁর তীব্র irony-এর একটি বিখ্যাত উদাহরণ।

এই সময়কে **Age of Prose** বলা হয় কারণ prose অনেক বেশি উন্নত হয়। **Addison** ও **Steele**-এর **The Tatler** এবং **The Spectator** periodical essay-কে জনপ্রিয় করে। তাঁদের বিখ্যাত চরিত্র **Sir Roger de Coverley**।

দ্বিতীয়ার্ধে **Dr Samuel Johnson** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হয়ে ওঠেন। তাঁর **Dictionary of the English Language** ইংরেজি ভাষার ইতিহাসে খুব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তাঁর জীবনী **James Boswell** লিখেছেন।

এই সময়ে **Sheridan** ও **Goldsmith** comedy-কে আবার জনপ্রিয় করেন। অন্যদিকে **Thomson, Gray, Collins** ও **Cowper** প্রকৃতি, গ্রামজীবন ও অনুভূতি নিয়ে লিখতে শুরু করেন। তাই তাঁদের **pre-Romantic poets** বলা হয়।

এই যুগের সবচেয়ে বড় সাহিত্যিক ঘটনা হলো **English Novel**-এর উত্থান। Middle class-এর উন্নতি, পাঠকের সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি, নারী পাঠকের বৃদ্ধি এবং circulating library-এর কারণে novel জনপ্রিয় হয়।

চারজন গুরুত্বপূর্ণ pioneer হলেন:

Defoe → **Robinson Crusoe**

Richardson → **Pamela**

Fielding → **Tom Jones**

Sterne → **Tristram Shandy**

নারী novelist-দের মধ্যেও **Fanny Burney, Ann Radcliffe** ও **Maria Edgeworth** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তাঁরা পরবর্তীতে **Jane Austen**-এর জন্য পথ তৈরি করেন।

এক লাইনে মনে রাখো

Neoclassical → **New Classical**

Augustan Age → **18th Century**

Age of Reason → **Reason & Rules**

Pope → **Heroic Couplet + Satire**

The Rape of the Lock → **Mock-Heroic**

Swift → **Gulliver's Travels**

Addison & Steele → **The Spectator**

1709 → The Tatler

1711 → The Spectator

Johnson → Dictionary

Defoe → Robinson Crusoe

Richardson → Pamela

Fielding → Tom Jones

Sterne → Tristram Shandy

Ann Radcliffe → Gothic Novel

1798 → Romantic Age begins

7. Romantic Age (1798–1832)

Why Does 1798 Matter?

The Romantic Age began in **1798**. In this year, **William Wordsworth and S. T. Coleridge** published *Lyrical Ballads*. It was a turning point in English literature.

Lyrical Ballads changed poetry in three important ways:

1. It moved away from the strict rules of 18th-century poetry.
2. It brought **ordinary and rural life** into poetry.
3. It used simple, natural language instead of artificial poetic language.

Wordsworth added the famous **Preface to Lyrical Ballads** in 1800. It became an important statement of Romantic poetry. He described poetry as the “**spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings**” and “**emotion recollected in tranquillity.**”

The Romantic Age ended around **1832**. The Reform Bill of 1832 and the deaths of the major younger Romantic poets are often connected with its end.

Here, “**Romantic**” **does not mean love or romance**. It means freedom of **imagination, emotion and individuality**.

The French Revolution and Its Influence

The **French Revolution of 1789** greatly influenced Romantic writers. Its main ideas were:

Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Many young English writers welcomed the Revolution. They believed that it would create a better and freer society.

The Revolution influenced Romantic literature in several ways:

- The **common man** became an important subject.
- Poets wrote about shepherds, children, poor people and rural life.
- Romantic writers opposed **tyranny and social restrictions**.
- They believed in **freedom and individual conscience**.
- They were influenced by **Rousseau's** idea that man is naturally good but society can corrupt him.

Later, the **Reign of Terror** and Napoleon's rule caused disappointment.

As a result, the Romantic poets became divided. **Wordsworth and Coleridge** became more conservative and turned towards nature and religion. **Byron and Shelley** continued their revolutionary ideas.

Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound* presents the idea of revolution through myth.

Main Characteristics of Romantic Poetry

1. Imagination

Imagination is the most important power of the Romantic poet. It is more important than reason.

Coleridge called imagination an “**esemplastic power**.”

2. Love of Nature

Nature is central to Romantic poetry. It is not only beautiful scenery. It is often presented as a **living teacher and healer**.

Wordsworth is called the “**High Priest of Nature**.”

He believed that a divine spirit exists in all things. This belief is called **pantheism**.

3. Emotion and Subjectivity

Romantic poetry gives importance to **emotion, personal feeling and individual experience**.

The poet often writes about his own feelings. Therefore, the **lyric** became more important than satire.

4. Common Life and Simple Language

Romantic poets made ordinary people and rural life important subjects of poetry.

They preferred **simple and natural language** instead of artificial poetic diction.

5. Love of the Past and Supernatural

Romantic poets were attracted to:

- The Middle Ages
- Ancient Greece
- The supernatural
- Mystery
- Strange and distant places

6. Individualism and Revolt

Romantic poetry often expresses **individual freedom, rebellion and dissatisfaction with social restrictions**.

There is also a strong feeling of sadness and longing for things that cannot be achieved.

7. New Interest in Old Forms

Romantic poets brought back many poetic forms, including:

- Ode
- Lyric
- Ballad
- Sonnet

They also used **blank verse** in a more natural and flexible way.

The Major Romantic Poets

William Blake

William Blake was a precursor of Romanticism.

His important work is *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*.

His poetry is:

- Simple
 - Symbolic
 - Mystical
 - Imaginative
-

William Wordsworth

Wordsworth is mainly the **poet of nature**.

His poetry deals with:

- Nature
- Childhood
- Memory
- Ordinary people
- Simple rural life

Important works include:

- *Tintern Abbey*
- *Ode: Intimations of Immortality*
- *The Prelude*

Wordsworth believed that childhood is very close to the divine. He is known as the **High Priest of Nature**.

S. T. Coleridge

Coleridge is the **poet of the supernatural and imagination**.

Important works include:

- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
- *Kubla Khan*
- *Christabel*

In *Biographia Literaria*, he explained the idea of “**willing suspension of disbelief.**”

It means that readers temporarily accept supernatural events as believable while reading a poem or story.

Lord Byron

Byron was a **poet, satirist and rebel.**

He created the famous **Byronic Hero**. This type of hero is usually proud, mysterious, rebellious and troubled by his past.

Important works:

- *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*
 - *Don Juan*
-

P. B. Shelley

Shelley was an **idealist and revolutionary poet.**

He wrote about:

- Freedom
- Revolution
- Hope
- Nature
- Human progress

Important works include:

- *Ode to the West Wind*
- *Prometheus Unbound*
- *Adonais*

John Keats

Keats is the **poet of beauty and sensuous imagination**.

His poetry gives great importance to beauty, art and nature.

Important odes include:

- *Ode to a Nightingale*
- *Ode on a Grecian Urn*
- *To Autumn*

His famous idea of **negative capability** means the ability to remain with mystery and uncertainty without needing a clear answer.

Romantic Prose and Novel

Romantic prose is strongly connected with the **personal essay**.

Charles Lamb

Charles Lamb wrote under the name **Elia**.

His essays are:

- Personal
- Humorous
- Gentle
- Emotional

His important work is *Essays of Elia*.

William Hazlitt

Hazlitt was a strong and critical essayist. His writing is energetic and personal.

Thomas De Quincey

De Quincey is famous for *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*. His prose is often dreamlike and highly personal.

Romantic Novelists

Sir Walter Scott

Scott is famous for developing the **historical novel**.

His novels combine history, action and local colour.

Important works:

- *Waverley*
 - *Ivanhoe*
-

Jane Austen

Jane Austen wrote mainly about the lives and manners of the English country gentry.

Her novels are famous for:

- Irony
- Good plot construction
- Realistic characters
- Social observation

Important works:

- *Pride and Prejudice*
- *Emma*
- *Sense and Sensibility*
- *Persuasion*

Although she wrote during the Romantic Age, her style is often described as **classical** because of its balance, control and careful construction.

Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein*.

The novel combines **Gothic elements, science and imagination** and is often regarded as an early work of science fiction.

Important Works

- *Lyrical Ballads* — Wordsworth & Coleridge
- *The Prelude* — Wordsworth
- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* — Coleridge
- *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* — Byron
- *Ode to the West Wind* — Shelley
- *Ode on a Grecian Urn* — Keats
- *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* — Blake
- *Pride and Prejudice* — Jane Austen
- *Ivanhoe* — Walter Scott
- *Frankenstein* — Mary Shelley

Major Writers

- William Blake
 - William Wordsworth
 - S. T. Coleridge
 - Lord Byron
 - P. B. Shelley
 - John Keats
 - Robert Burns
 - Sir Walter Scott
 - Jane Austen
 - Mary Shelley
 - Charles Lamb
 - William Hazlitt
-

পরীক্ষার টিপস

Part C-এর জন্য

এই বিষয়গুলো সবচেয়ে ভালোভাবে প্রস্তুত রাখুন:

1. Romantic poetry-এর প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য।
2. French Revolution-এর প্রভাব।
3. Wordsworth-এর প্রকৃতি-ভাবনা।
4. Coleridge ও supernatural-এর ব্যবহার।
5. Keats-এর সৌন্দর্য-ভাবনা।
6. Romantic essayist ও novelist-দের অবদান।

Part B-এর জন্য

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিন:

- *Lyrical Ballads*
- *Preface to Lyrical Ballads*
- Byronic Hero
- Byron
- Shelley-এর আদর্শবাদ
- Walter Scott-এর historical novel
- Jane Austen

Part A-এর জন্য

নাম, সাল ও সংজ্ঞাগুলো মনে রাখুন:

- *Lyrical Ballads* — 1798
 - *Preface to Lyrical Ballads* — 1800
 - Romantic Age — 1798–1832
 - High Priest of Nature — Wordsworth
 - *Ode to the West Wind* — Shelley
 - *Pride and Prejudice* — Jane Austen
 - Byronic Hero — Byron
 - “Spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” — Wordsworth
-

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Romantic Age-এর শুরু ১৭৯৮ সালে। এই বছর Wordsworth ও Coleridge *Lyrical Ballads* প্রকাশ করেন। এর মাধ্যমে ইংরেজি কবিতায় নতুন যুগ শুরু হয়।

এই যুগে কবিরা পুরোনো কঠিন নিয়মের বদলে কল্পনা, আবেগ, স্বাধীনতা ও ব্যক্তিগত অনুভূতিকে বেশি গুরুত্ব দেন। সাধারণ মানুষ, গ্রাম, শিশু ও প্রকৃতি কবিতার গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয় হয়ে ওঠে।

French Revolution Romantic কবিদের ওপর বড় প্রভাব ফেলে। তারা স্বাধীনতা ও মানুষের অধিকারকে সমর্থন করেন। পরে বিপ্লবের সহিংসতা ও Napoleon-এর শাসনে অনেক কবির চিন্তায় পরিবর্তন আসে।

Romantic কবিতার সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয় হলো **imagination** ও **nature**। Wordsworth প্রকৃতিকে জীবন্ত শিক্ষক ও পথপ্রদর্শক হিসেবে দেখেছেন। তাই তাঁকে **High Priest of Nature** বলা হয়।

Wordsworth প্রকৃতি ও সাধারণ জীবনের কবি।

Coleridge অতিপ্রাকৃত ও কল্পনার কবি।

Byron বিদ্রোহী ও ব্যঙ্গাত্মক কবি।

Shelley স্বাধীনতা ও আদর্শের কবি।

Keats সৌন্দর্যের কবি।

Blake Romantic আন্দোলনের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ পূর্বসূরি।

গদ্যে **Charles Lamb**, **Hazlitt** ও **De Quincey** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। উপন্যাসে **Walter Scott** historical novel-এর জন্য এবং **Jane Austen** চরিত্র ও সমাজজীবনের সূক্ষ্ম চিত্রণের জন্য বিখ্যাত। **Mary Shelley**-র *Frankenstein* Gothic ও science fiction-এর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ উদাহরণ।

মনে রাখার সহজ সূত্র

1798 → Lyrical Ballads → Romantic Age

Wordsworth → Nature

Coleridge → Supernatural

Byron → Rebel / Byronic Hero

Shelley → Revolution / Idealism

Keats → Beauty

Scott → Historical Novel

Jane Austen → Society & Character

Mary Shelley → Frankenstein

8. Victorian Age (1832–1901)

What Signifies the Victorian Age?

The Victorian Age is named after **Queen Victoria**, who ruled Britain from **1837 to 1901**. The period is usually dated from the **Reform Bill of 1832** to 1901.

It was a period of great change. The most important features were:

- Industrial Revolution
- Growth of the British Empire
- New factories and railways
- Growth of large cities
- Great wealth and serious poverty
- Child labour and slums
- Social and political reforms
- Strong family values and moral seriousness
- Conflict between science and religion

It was also an age of **reform**. Factory laws were introduced, voting rights were expanded, education improved and the women's movement began to grow.

At the same time, Victorian society had a problem of **hypocrisy**. People often appeared respectable and moral, but their private behaviour did not always match their public values.

Thus, the Victorian Age was a time of **progress, prosperity, doubt, reform and social conflict**.

Science vs Religion

One of the biggest Victorian problems was the conflict between **science and religious faith**.

In **1859**, Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species*. He explained the theory of **evolution by natural selection**.

This challenged the traditional Christian belief about the creation of human beings.

Other developments also created religious doubt:

- Modern geology showed that the earth was extremely old.
- Biblical criticism studied the Bible as a historical and human document.
- Scientific ideas questioned traditional religious beliefs.

This created the famous **Victorian Conflict**:

Faith vs Doubt
Science vs Religion

Tennyson

Tennyson's *In Memoriam* reflects this struggle between faith and doubt.

Matthew Arnold

Arnold's *Dover Beach* also expresses the loss of religious faith. The famous “**Sea of Faith**” is shown as moving away.

The Victorian Compromise

The Victorians often tried to balance opposite ideas instead of choosing only one side.

This is called the **Victorian Compromise**.

They tried to combine:

- Science and faith
- Progress and tradition
- Wealth and morality
- Freedom and respectability

This helped Victorian society remain stable and allowed reforms to take place peacefully.

However, it also created **evasion and hypocrisy**.

The Oxford Movement

The **Oxford Movement** began in **1833**.

Its main leaders included:

- John Henry Newman
- John Keble
- E. B. Pusey

The movement tried to strengthen the **Church of England** by bringing back some Catholic traditions, rituals and authority.

Newman later became a Roman Catholic.

His important work is:

Victorian Poetry

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Tennyson is called the **Representative Poet of the Victorian Age**.

He expressed many important Victorian ideas:

- Love of England
- Moral seriousness
- Religious doubt
- Interest in science
- Love of the past
- Faith in human effort

Important works:

- *In Memoriam*
- *Ulysses*
- *Idylls of the King*

He was **Poet Laureate for more than forty years**.

Robert Browning

Browning was very different from Tennyson.

He was energetic, optimistic and interested in human psychology.

He is famous for the **dramatic monologue**.

A dramatic monologue is a poem in which **one speaker talks to a silent listener and reveals his own character through his speech**.

Important examples:

- *My Last Duchess*

- *Andrea del Sarto*

The dramatic monologue is one of the most important contributions of Victorian poetry.

Matthew Arnold

Matthew Arnold is the **poet of melancholy and doubt**.

He also criticized the materialism and shallow culture of Victorian society.

His famous poem *Dover Beach* expresses the loss of religious faith.

The Pre-Raphaelite Movement

The **Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood** was founded in **1848**.

Important members included:

- D. G. Rossetti
- John Everett Millais
- Holman Hunt

They reacted against the artificiality and ugliness of industrial society and art.

They admired the art of Italy **before Raphael**.

Their work is known for:

- Bright colours
- Detailed description
- Medieval subjects
- Sensuous imagery
- Symbolism
- "Art for art's sake"

Important literary figures connected with the movement include:

- Christina Rossetti
- William Morris
- A. C. Swinburne

Swinburne is often called the “**Un-Victorian Poet**” because of his sensual poetry and rebellion against Victorian moral values.

The Victorian Novel

The Victorian Age is often called the **Age of the Novel**.

Novels became extremely popular. Many novels were published in **monthly or serial parts**.

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens is one of the greatest Victorian novelists.

His novels contain:

- Unforgettable characters
- Humour
- Emotion
- Social criticism
- Sympathy for the poor

He often attacked social problems.

Important Works

**** *Oliver Twist* **** → workhouses and poverty

**** *Hard Times* **** → factories and utilitarian education

**** *Bleak House* **** → problems of the legal system

**** *A Tale of Two Cities* **** → London and Paris during the French Revolution

His weakness was his frequent use of **melodrama, coincidence and sentimentality**. But his sympathy for poor people helped draw attention to social problems.

Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy was very different from Dickens.

He was a **pessimist and fatalist**.

His novels are mainly set in the fictional rural region called **Wessex**.

His characters often suffer because of:

- Fate
- Chance
- Heredity
- Social pressure
- An indifferent universe

Important works:

- *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
- *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*
- *Jude the Obscure*

The negative response to *Jude the Obscure* contributed to Hardy's decision to stop writing novels and return to poetry.

Other Important Novelists

W. M. Thackeray

Thackeray was a great **satirist of Victorian society**.

His most famous novel is:

**** *Vanity Fair* ****

It exposes social ambition, hypocrisy and greed.

George Eliot

George Eliot is known for:

- Moral analysis
- Psychological depth
- Realistic characters

Important works:

- *Middlemarch*
 - *The Mill on the Floss*
-

Victorian Women Novelists

Women writers played a major role in Victorian literature.

The Brontë Sisters

The three famous Brontë sisters were:

- **Charlotte Brontë** — *Jane Eyre*
- **Emily Brontë** — *Wuthering Heights*
- **Anne Brontë** — *Agnes Grey*

At first, they published under male pen names:

- Charlotte → Currer Bell
- Emily → Ellis Bell
- Anne → Acton Bell

They brought strong emotion, female experience and inner life into English fiction.

Other important women writers include **George Eliot** and **Mrs Gaskell**.

Victorian Prose

Several important prose writers also appeared during this period.

Thomas Carlyle

He criticized materialism and wrote *Sartor Resartus*.

John Ruskin

He connected **art with social morality and justice**.

Thomas Babington Macaulay

He was famous for **history and essays**.

Important Works

- *In Memoriam* — Tennyson
 - *Ulysses* — Tennyson
 - *My Last Duchess* — Browning
 - *Dover Beach* — Matthew Arnold
 - *Oliver Twist* — Charles Dickens
 - *Hard Times* — Charles Dickens
 - *A Tale of Two Cities* — Charles Dickens
 - *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* — Thomas Hardy
 - *Middlemarch* — George Eliot
 - *Vanity Fair* — Thackeray
 - *Jane Eyre* — Charlotte Brontë
 - *Wuthering Heights* — Emily Brontë
 - *The Origin of Species* — Charles Darwin
-

Major Writers

- Alfred Lord Tennyson
 - Robert Browning
 - Matthew Arnold
 - Charles Dickens
 - Thomas Hardy
 - George Eliot
 - W. M. Thackeray
 - Charlotte Brontë
 - Emily Brontë
 - Anne Brontë
 - John Ruskin
 - Thomas Carlyle
 - John Henry Newman
 - Charles Darwin
-

পরীক্ষার টিপস

Part C-এর জন্য

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিন:

1. Victorian Age-এর প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য।
2. Victorian Poetry-এর প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য।
3. Tennyson as the Representative Poet.
4. Science ও Religion-এর সংঘাত।
5. Dickens ও Hardy-এর উপন্যাস।
6. Victorian Age-এ Pre-Raphaelite Movement-এর ভূমিকা।

Part B-এর জন্য

এই বিষয়গুলো ভালোভাবে পড়ুন:

- Pre-Raphaelite Movement
- Oxford Movement
- Dramatic Monologue
- Victorian Compromise
- *The Origin of Species*
- Brontë Sisters

Part A-এর জন্য

নাম, সাল ও সংজ্ঞাগুলো মনে রাখুন:

- Victorian Age → **1832–1901**
 - Queen Victoria → **1837–1901**
 - *The Origin of Species* → **1859**
 - Oxford Movement → **1833**
 - Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood → **1848**
 - Representative Poet → **Tennyson**
 - Dramatic Monologue → **Robert Browning**
 - Un-Victorian Poet → **Swinburne**
 - *Jane Eyre* → **Charlotte Brontë**
 - *Wuthering Heights* → **Emily Brontë**
 - *Oliver Twist* → **Charles Dickens**
-

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Victorian Age-এর নাম এসেছে Queen Victoria-এর নাম থেকে। তাঁর শাসনকাল ছিল ১৮৩৭–১৯০১। তবে সাহিত্য ইতিহাসে এই যুগ সাধারণত ১৮৩২ থেকে ১৯০১ পর্যন্ত ধরা হয়।

এই সময়ে **Industrial Revolution**-এর কারণে কারখানা, রেল, শহর ও ব্যবসা দ্রুত বৃদ্ধি পায়। মানুষের সম্পদ বাড়ে, কিন্তু একই সঙ্গে দারিদ্র্য, শিশুশ্রম ও বস্তির সমস্যাও বাড়ে। ভোটাধিকার, শিক্ষা ও শ্রমিকদের অধিকার নিয়ে অনেক সংস্কার হয়।

এই যুগের বড় সমস্যা ছিল বিজ্ঞান ও ধর্মের সংঘাত। ১৮৫৯ সালে Darwin-এর *The Origin of Species* প্রকাশিত হলে মানুষের সৃষ্টি ও ধর্মীয় বিশ্বাস নিয়ে অনেক প্রশ্ন তৈরি হয়। তাই Victorian literature-এ বিশ্বাস ও সন্দেহের দ্বন্দ্ব দেখা যায়।

এই দ্বন্দ্ব সামলানোর চেষ্টা থেকেই **Victorian Compromise**-এর ধারণা আসে। অর্থাৎ বিজ্ঞান ও ধর্ম, উন্নতি ও ঐতিহ্য—দুই দিককেই একসঙ্গে ধরে রাখার চেষ্টা।

Oxford Movement শুরু হয় ১৮৩৩ সালে। এটি Church of England-এর পুরোনো ধর্মীয় আচার ও কর্তৃত্বকে শক্তিশালী করতে চেয়েছিল।

কবিতায় **Tennyson** ছিলেন যুগের প্রতিনিধি। **Browning** dramatic monologue-এর জন্য বিখ্যাত। **Matthew Arnold** ছিলেন বিষাদ ও ধর্মীয় সন্দেহের কবি। Pre-Raphaelite কবিরা মধ্যযুগীয় সৌন্দর্য, প্রকৃতি ও শিল্পকে গুরুত্ব দেন। **Swinburne**-কে বলা হয় **Un-Victorian Poet**।

এই যুগকে **Age of the Novel** বলা হয়। **Charles Dickens** দারিদ্র্য ও সামাজিক অন্যায়ের বিরুদ্ধে লিখেছেন। **Thomas Hardy** ভাগ্য ও জীবনের নির্ভরতা নিয়ে লিখেছেন। **Thackeray** সমাজকে ব্যঙ্গ করেছেন এবং **George Eliot** মানুষের মন ও নৈতিক সমস্যাকে গভীরভাবে দেখিয়েছেন।

নারী লেখকরাও এই যুগে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হয়ে ওঠেন। **Charlotte Brontë**, **Emily Brontë** এবং **Anne Brontë** তাঁদের উপন্যাসে নারীর অনুভূতি ও ব্যক্তিজীবন তুলে ধরেন।

সহজে মনে রাখুন

1832 → Victorian Age begins
1833 → Oxford Movement
1848 → Pre-Raphaelite Movement
1859 → Darwin's *Origin of Species*
Tennyson → Representative Poet
Browning → Dramatic Monologue
Arnold → Doubt & Melancholy
Dickens → Social Problems
Hardy → Fate & Pessimism
Brontë Sisters → Women & Passion

9. **Modern Age (1901–Present)**

What Made the Modern Age Modern?

The Modern Age began with the **death of Queen Victoria in 1901**. However, the real turning point was the **First World War (1914–1918)**.

The war destroyed many people's faith in:

- Progress
- Empire
- Religion
- Reason

A new kind of literature developed. It reflected the fear, doubt and confusion of modern life.

Four major forces shaped modern literature.

1. Freud and Psychology

Sigmund Freud focused on the human mind.

His ideas made writers interested in:

- The unconscious mind
- Dreams
- Hidden desires
- Memories
- Psychological problems

2. Marx and Socialism

The ideas of **Karl Marx** made writers more interested in:

- Social class
- Poverty
- Money
- Labour
- Economic inequality

3. Darwin and Loss of Faith

Darwin's scientific ideas and the decline of traditional religious belief created a feeling that the universe might have no clear meaning.

Therefore, the Modern Age is sometimes called the “**Age of Anxiety.**”

4. Modern Technology and the City

Machines, factories, large cities, newspapers, cinema, world wars and the atomic bomb changed human life.

Life became faster, more crowded and more frightening.

As a result, modern literature often shows:

- Fragmentation
 - Doubt
 - Anxiety
 - Irony
 - Experiment
 - Loss of certainty
-

The Age of Decadence

The **1890s**, just before the Modern Age, are often called the **Age of Decadence**.

Writers such as **Oscar Wilde** and other aesthetes rejected Victorian moral seriousness.

They supported the idea of:

“Art for art's sake.”

It means that art should be valued for its beauty, not for its moral or social purpose.

Modernism

Modernism is an experimental literary movement that developed mainly between about **1910** and **1940**.

Modernist writers wanted to break away from traditional literary forms.

Main Features of Modernism

1. Break with tradition
2. Use of free verse
3. Fragmented structure
4. Difficulty and use of allusion
5. Use of myth
6. Irony and impersonality
7. Interest in human consciousness
8. Modern city as a symbol of loneliness and emptiness

Modernist literature often does not give a simple answer or a clear moral lesson.

Modern Poetry

W. B. Yeats

W. B. Yeats was Irish.

His nationality is important for short questions.

His early poetry was influenced by Celtic myths and dreams. Later, his poetry became more symbolic, serious and prophetic.

Important works:

- *The Second Coming*
- *Sailing to Byzantium*
- *Easter 1916*

In *The Second Coming*, he presents a world falling into disorder.

His famous line is:

“Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold.”

T. S. Eliot

T. S. Eliot was **American by birth** and later became British.

He is one of the greatest modern poets.

His most important poem is:

**** *The Waste Land* (1922)****

It presents modern civilization as spiritually empty and broken.

The poem uses:

- Different voices
- Quotations
- Myths
- Different languages
- Fragmented scenes

Another important work is:

**** *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* ****

It presents a hesitant and anxious modern man.

His essay **** *Tradition and the Individual Talent* **** explains his idea of poetic impersonality.

Eliot also developed the idea of the **objective correlative**.

Other Modern Poets

Ezra Pound

Pound was closely connected with **Imagism**, which emphasized clear and precise images.

W. H. Auden

Auden wrote about social and political problems.

Dylan Thomas

He is known for musical and powerful poetry.

G. M. Hopkins

Hopkins is known for his special poetic rhythm called **sprung rhythm**.

War Poets

The First World War produced important war poets:

- Wilfred Owen
- Rupert Brooke
- Siegfried Sassoon

Brooke often showed early patriotic feelings, while Owen showed the suffering and pity of war.

The Modern Novel

The Modern novel moved from **outer events to inner life**.

Modern novelists became more interested in the thoughts, memories and feelings of characters.

Stream of Consciousness

Stream of consciousness is a technique that shows the continuous flow of a character's thoughts, memories, feelings and associations.

The thoughts may appear:

- Unordered
- Fragmented
- Without clear explanation
- With sudden changes of time
- Like natural thinking

The term is associated with psychologist **William James**.

Two major users of this technique are:

James Joyce

Joyce's *Ulysses* presents one day in Dublin.

It is based partly on Homer's *Odyssey*.

The novel ends with **Molly Bloom's long interior monologue**.

Virginia Woolf

Woolf used stream of consciousness in:

- *Mrs Dalloway*
- *To the Lighthouse*

She often shows how memories and thoughts move through the human mind.

Other Important Modern Novelists

D. H. Lawrence

Lawrence explored:

- Human instinct
- The body
- The unconscious
- Relationships

Important works:

- *Sons and Lovers*
- *Women in Love*

E. M. Forster

Forster explored the difficulties of human relationships.

Important work:

**** *A Passage to India* ****

Joseph Conrad

Conrad explored moral darkness and the darker side of human nature.

Important work:

**** Heart of Darkness ****

Aldous Huxley

Huxley's *Brave New World* is an important **dystopian novel**.

George Orwell

Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is another famous dystopian novel about power, control and loss of freedom.

Victorian Novel vs Modern Novel

This comparison is important for examinations.

Victorian Novel	Modern Novel
Long and detailed story	Often focuses on a shorter period
Strong plot	Fragmented or less traditional plot
Society is important	Individual mind is important
Often has a moral lesson	Usually avoids direct moral judgement
Usually has a clear ending	Often has an open ending
External events are important	Thoughts and consciousness are important
Traditional structure	Experimental structure

Modern Drama

Modern drama became stronger after a long period of weakness.

One important type is **Drama of Ideas**.

A drama of ideas focuses on a **social, moral or political problem**. The characters discuss and debate these problems.

George Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw was Irish.

He was one of the greatest modern dramatists.

He used:

- Wit
- Humour
- Paradox
- Debate
- Social criticism

Important plays include:

- *Arms and the Man*
- *Mrs Warren's Profession*
- *Major Barbara*
- *Pygmalion*
- *Saint Joan*
- *Man and Superman*

Main Themes

Arms and the Man → war and heroism

Mrs Warren's Profession → poverty and social morality

Pygmalion → class and language

Saint Joan → religion and history

Man and Superman

Man and Superman was published in **1903**.

It presents Shaw's ideas of:

- **Life Force**
- **Creative Evolution**

- The development of humanity

The play includes the famous dream sequence **Don Juan in Hell**, which is mainly a philosophical debate.

Theatre of the Absurd

After **1945**, a new type of drama developed. It is called the **Theatre of the Absurd**.

It presents the idea that human existence may have **no clear meaning**.

Main Features

- Illogical situations
 - Repeated dialogue
 - Circular action
 - Waiting and inability to act
 - Minimal settings
 - Mixture of comedy and tragedy
 - Lack of clear meaning
-

Samuel Beckett

The most famous absurd play is:

**** *Waiting for Godot* (1953)****

Two characters, **Vladimir and Estragon**, wait beside a tree for a person named **Godot**.

Godot never comes.

The play shows the uncertainty, waiting and meaninglessness of human life.

Other Modern Dramatists

Harold Pinter

Pinter added **silence, tension and menace** to modern drama.

Important work:

The Birthday Party

John Osborne

His *Look Back in Anger* became an important play of the **Angry Young Men** movement.

T. S. Eliot

Eliot also wrote verse drama.

Important work:

The Murder in the Cathedral

Important Works

- *The Second Coming* — W. B. Yeats
 - *The Waste Land* — T. S. Eliot
 - *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* — T. S. Eliot
 - *Tradition and the Individual Talent* — T. S. Eliot
 - *Ulysses* — James Joyce
 - *Mrs Dalloway* — Virginia Woolf
 - *To the Lighthouse* — Virginia Woolf
 - *Sons and Lovers* — D. H. Lawrence
 - *A Passage to India* — E. M. Forster
 - *Heart of Darkness* — Joseph Conrad
 - *Nineteen Eighty-Four* — George Orwell
 - *Brave New World* — Aldous Huxley
 - *Pygmalion* — G. B. Shaw
 - *Arms and the Man* — G. B. Shaw
 - *Waiting for Godot* — Samuel Beckett
-

Major Writers

- W. B. Yeats
 - T. S. Eliot
 - W. H. Auden
 - Ezra Pound
 - Wilfred Owen
 - Rupert Brooke
 - G. M. Hopkins
 - G. B. Shaw
 - Samuel Beckett
 - Harold Pinter
 - John Osborne
 - James Joyce
 - Virginia Woolf
 - D. H. Lawrence
 - E. M. Forster
 - Joseph Conrad
 - Aldous Huxley
 - George Orwell
 - Oscar Wilde
-

পরীক্ষার টিপস

Part C-এর জন্য

বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিন:

1. Modern Age-এর প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য।
2. Modern poetry-এর বৈশিষ্ট্য।
3. Yeats ও Eliot-এর আধুনিক কবিতায় অবদান।
4. Victorian novel ও Modern novel-এর পার্থক্য।
5. Modern drama ও G. B. Shaw।
6. Modernism-এর প্রধান বৈশিষ্ট্য।

Part B-এর জন্য

বিশেষভাবে পড়ুন:

- Stream of Consciousness

- Theatre of the Absurd
- *Waiting for Godot*
- *Man and Superman*
- Modernism
- Modern poets

Part A-এর জন্য

এই তথ্যগুলো অবশ্যই মনে রাখুন:

- Modern Age → **1901–Present**
- First World War → **1914–1918**
- Age of Decadence → **1890s**
- Modernism → **c. 1910–1940**
- Yeats → **Irish**
- T. S. Eliot → **American-born, later British**
- G. B. Shaw → **Irish**
- *The Waste Land* → **1922**
- *Man and Superman* → **1903**
- *Waiting for Godot* → **1953**
- Stream of Consciousness → **William James**
- *Ulysses* → **James Joyce**
- *Mrs Dalloway* → **Virginia Woolf**
- *Pygmalion* → **G. B. Shaw**
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* → **George Orwell**
- *Brave New World* → **Aldous Huxley**

সহজ বাংলা সারাংশ

Modern Age-এর শুরু সাধারণত ১৯০১ সালে **Queen Victoria**-এর মৃত্যুর পর থেকে ধরা হয়। তবে **First World War** (১৯১৪–১৯১৮) এই যুগের সাহিত্যে সবচেয়ে বড় পরিবর্তন আনে। যুদ্ধের কারণে মানুষ progress, ধর্ম, যুক্তি ও ভবিষ্যৎ সম্পর্কে আগের মতো আশাবাদী থাকেনি।

এই যুগের সাহিত্যে **Freud, Marx ও Darwin**-এর চিন্তার বড় প্রভাব ছিল। Freud মানুষের অবচেতন মন ও স্বপ্নের দিকে দৃষ্টি দেন। Marx শ্রেণি ও অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যাকে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ করে তোলেন। Darwin-এর বিজ্ঞান ও ধর্মীয় বিশ্বাসের দুর্বলতা মানুষের মনে অনিশ্চয়তা তৈরি করে।

তাই Modern Age-কে অনেক সময় **Age of Anxiety** বলা হয়।

১৮৯০-এর দশককে **Age of Decadence** বলা হয়। Oscar Wilde-এর মতো লেখকেরা “**Art for art's sake**”-এ বিশ্বাস করতেন।

Modernism পুরোনো সাহিত্যিক নিয়ম ভেঙে নতুন পদ্ধতি ব্যবহার করে। **Free verse, fragmentation, irony, myth, allusion** এবং মানুষের মনের গভীরে প্রবেশ Modernist সাহিত্যের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বৈশিষ্ট্য।

কবিতায় **W. B. Yeats** ও **T. S. Eliot** সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। Yeats ছিলেন **Irish**। তাঁর গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কবিতা *The Second Coming*। Eliot-এর *The Waste Land* আধুনিক সভ্যতার আধ্যাত্মিক শূন্যতা ও ভাঙন দেখায়।

আধুনিক উপন্যাসে বাইরের ঘটনার চেয়ে মানুষের মনের ভেতরের চিন্তা ও অনুভূতি বেশি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ হয়। এই ক্ষেত্রে **Stream of Consciousness** একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কৌশল। **James Joyce** ও **Virginia Woolf** এটি সফলভাবে ব্যবহার করেন।

Victorian novel সাধারণত দীর্ঘ, plot-নির্ভর ও নৈতিক শিক্ষা-সমৃদ্ধ। অন্যদিকে **Modern novel** বেশি ব্যক্তিমন, চিন্তা, স্মৃতি ও অনুভূতিকে গুরুত্ব দেয় এবং এর সমাপ্তি অনেক সময় খোলা থাকে।

নাটকে **G. B. Shaw** গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। তিনি **Drama of Ideas**-এর জন্য বিখ্যাত। তাঁর *Pygmalion*, *Arms and the Man* ও *Man and Superman* গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

১৯৪৫-এর পর **Theatre of the Absurd** জনপ্রিয় হয়। এখানে জীবনের অর্থহীনতা ও মানুষের অপেক্ষা দেখানো হয়। **Samuel Beckett**-এর *Waiting for Godot* এর সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ উদাহরণ।

সহজে মনে রাখুন

1901 → Modern Age begins

1914–18 → First World War

1890s → Age of Decadence

1910–40 → Modernism

Yeats → Irish + The Second Coming

Eliot → The Waste Land

Joyce → Ulysses

Virginia Woolf → Mrs Dalloway

Shaw → Drama of Ideas

Beckett → Waiting for Godot

Pinter → Silence & Menace

Orwell → Nineteen Eighty-Four

Huxley → Brave New World
