

Novels, Society & History

2016

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

Question 1.

Who wrote the first proper modern novel in Hindi?

Answer:

The first proper modern novel in Hindi was written by Srinivas Das of Delhi.

Question 2.

Which novel in Hindi, published in 1882, gives more emphasis to moral values?

Answer:

Pariksha Gum by Srinivas Das, published in 1882 gives more emphasis to moral values.

Question 3.

Name the first Hindi novel based on romance with dazzling element of fantasy.

Answer:

The first Hindi novel based on romance with dazzling element of fantasy was Chandrakanta by Devaki Nandan Khatri.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 4.

Differentiate between the novels written by Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen.

Answer:

Following is the differentiation between the novels written by Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen.

- Charlotte Bronte speaks about women who break established norms of the society whereas Austen's novels give the glimpse of women in cultured rural society in their domestic role.
- The characters portrayed by Bronte are daring, independent and assertive. Austen's characters are already preoccupied with marriage and money.
- Bronte protests the hypocrisy of elders and wants the women of her time to live a dignified life on equal footing. Austen encourages the typical men-oriented society.

Question 5.

When and in which languages were the modern form of novels developed in India? Give examples of any two earliest modern Indian Novels.

Answer:

The modern form of novels developed in India in the 19th century in the vernacular languages. Yamuna Paryatan (1857) by Baba Padmanji in Marathi and Muktamala (1861) by Lakshman Moreshwar Halbe were the two earliest modern Indian novels.

Question 6.

In what ways did novels help to give the people a vision of being ideal characters?

Answer:

Novels helped people by giving them a vision of being ideal characters in the following ways.

1. Srinivas Das through his characters in Pariksha Guru taught the readers to adopt the right way of life and encouraged men to be wise and practical and remain rooted to their values, traditions, culture etc. He also inspired people to live with honour and dignity.
2. Munshi Premchand through his novel Rangbhoomi and Godan stressed creating a community based on democratic values and urged people to maintain their dignity under any circumstances. Chandu Menon in Indulekha proves how different lifestyles and customs can be adopted in an ideal combination.

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]

Question 7.

Briefly describe the journey of the development of novel in Hindi.

Answer:

The development of Hindi novel took place in the following ways.

1. Bharatendu Harishchandra pioneered modern Hindi literature. Many other poets and writers got encouraged and began to recreate, adapt and translate novels from English and Bengali.
2. Srinivas Das through Pariksha Guru in 1882 peeped into the inner world of emerging middle classes.
3. People were moved with the way they were taught the right way to live and develop a practical approach as stated in Pariksha Guru.
4. Devaki Nandan Khatri through Chandrakanta presented romance with impressive elements of fantasy which created a Hindi novel reading public.
5. It was with the in-depth understanding of Munshi Premchand into the daily life of his characters that the Hindi novel achieved excellence. Sevasadan, Godan and many more of his novels presented a real world above fantasy and entertainment to the readers. His art of storytelling, kissa goi attracted readers and critics.

Question 8.

Why did novels become popular among women in India? Explain with examples.

Answer:

Novels became popular among women in India because of the following reasons.

- The novels allowed women to have a new concept of womanhood.
- Love stories encouraged women that they too could choose or refuse relationships.
- Novels inspired women that they too could live their lives according to their wish.
- Novels like Padmarg by Rokeya Hossein, stressed the need of self reforms by women which caught their imagination.
- Satires like Sultana's Dream mocked the male dominated society by inverting the role of women with that of men.

Question 9.

Who translated the novel "Henrietta Temple" written by Disraeli in Malayalam? Why did the author give up the idea of translating English novels? What did he do instead in the literary field?

Answer:

O Chandu Menon translated the novel Henrietta Temple, written by Disraeli, into Malayalam. The author then gave up the idea of translating English novels because of the following reasons.

1. The readers could not relate the characters with their life and ways because they belonged to a foreign culture unknown to the Indian readers.
2. He felt that the direct translation of English novel was quite boring. He, therefore, took to writing his own novel in Malayalam. The product was Indulekha published in 1889.

2015

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

Question 10.

Which Hindi novel reflects the inner and the outer world of the newly-emerging middle class?

Answer:

Pariksha guru reflects the inner and outer world of the newly-emerging middle classes.

Question 11.

Which novel depicts a topsy-turvy world in which women take the place of men?

Answer:

Sultana's Dream written by Rokeya Hossein in 1905 shows a topsy-turvy world in which women take the place of men.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 12.

Explain the contribution of Charles Dickens in the field of English literature.

Answer:

The following points sum up the contribution of Charles Dickens in the field of English literature.

- Charles Dickens wrote about the terrible effects of industrialisation on people's lives and characters. His novel Hard Times (1854) describes Coketown, a fictitious industrial town, as a grim place full of machinery, smoking chimneys and polluted rivers and buildings that looked the same.
- Dickens criticized not just the greed for profits but also the ideas that reduced human beings into simple instruments of production.
- In other novels too, Dickens focused on the terrible conditions of urban life under industrial capitalism. His novel Oliver Twist (1838) gives an insight into the life of a poor

orphan who lived in a world of petty criminals and beggars.

Question 13.

Who was Potheri Kunjambu? Write about him.

Answer:

Potheri Kunjambu was a 'lower-caste' writer from north Kerala, who wrote a novel called Saraswativijayam in 1892, mounting a strong attack on caste oppression. This novel shows a young man from an 'untouchable' caste, leaving his village to escape the cruelty of his Brahmin landlord. He converts to Christianity, obtains modern education and returns as the judge in the local court. Meanwhile, the villagers, thinking that the landlord's men had killed him, file a case. At the conclusion of the trial, the judge reveals his true identity and the Brahmin landlord repents and reforms his ways. Saraswativijayam stresses the importance of education for the upliftment of the lower castes.

Question 14.

Assess the advantages of serialised novels published during nineteenth century Europe.

Answer:

The following were the advantages of serialised novels published during the nineteenth century Europe.

- Serialising the novel allowed the readers to enjoy the suspense in the stories.
- It made the reader discuss the characters of a novel and live for weeks with their stories, thus increasing anticipation for the next issue to come.
- It also led to magazines becoming popular as they were illustrated and cheaper than novels.

Question 15.

Describe the process of the development of novel in Hindi.

Answer:

The following points show the process of the development of novel in Hindi.

- The novel came to the Hindi belt in the nineteenth century. Poets and writers known to Bharatendu Harishchandra were encouraged by him to recreate and translate novels from other languages.
- This led to many translations of English and Bengali novels into Hindi. The first proper modern novel in Hindi was however written by Srinivas Rao in 1882. It was named Pariksha guru.
- It was with the writing of Premchand that the Hindi novel achieved excellence.

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]

Question 16.

How did novels in India attempt to create a sense of pan-India belonging? Explain

Answer:

Novels in India attempted to create a sense of pan-India belonging in the following ways.

- When colonial rulers regarded India as inferior, Indian novelists wrote to develop a modern literature that could produce a sense of national belonging and cultural equality with their colonial masters.
- Many novelists tried to teach the readers the right way of life and expected all sensible men to behave wisely, have a practical approach, remain rooted in the values of their traditions and to live with dignity and honour.

- Women were not merely the readers of stories written by men. Soon they also began to write novels. They started with poems, essays and autobiographical pieces. Some women writers wrote about men and women that changed the world of both men and women.
Novels began to be written on the low castes.
- Advita Malla Burman's Titash Ekta Nadir Naam depicts the life of the Mallas, a fish folk community, festivals, customs and their relationships of friendship and animosity with the peasants and oppression of the upper caste.
- Some novels wrote about Marathas and Rajputs. The imagined nation of the novels was so powerful that it could inspire actual political movements. Anandmath by Bankim Chandra brought forth a secret Hindu militia that fight Muslims to establish a Hindu kingdom and inspires many freedom fighters.

Question 17.

How did the characters like Indulekha and Madhavan inspire the contemporary generations to strike a balance between the Western ideas and Indian traditional culture?

Answer:

- Character like Indulekha and Madhavan showed readers how Indian and foreign lifestyles could be brought together in an ideal combination.
- Indulekha rejects foolish Nambuthiri and marries Madhavan. It shows that education should be valued as an asset. Being educated does not mean that one should do away with traditional customs like marriage.
- Both the characters showed a critical alliance based on caste, ignorance and immortality among high caste and virtue and wisdom of being educated.
- It provides a lesson to those living in dilemma of being English educated and losing their traditional values. It shows that two distinct lifestyles could be practised at the same time, without refusing the other.
- Marriage of Indulekha, an English educated beautiful and intelligent lady to a Sanskrit scholar dressed in western attire and keeping a tuft of hair according to his custom is depicted as a best example of a combination of foreign and Indian lifestyle.

Very Short Answer Type Questions [1 Mark]

Question 18.

By whom was the novel Hard Times written?

Answer:

The novel Hard Times was written by Charles Dickens.

Question 19.

What problem of the society was focused in the novel Hard Times, written by Charles Dickens?

Answer:

Charles Dickens, in his novel Hard Times, focused on the terrible effects of industrialization on people's lives and characters.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 20.

Who wrote the novel Saraswativijayam? Highlight any two messages given to the people through the novel.

Answer:

Saraswativijayam was written by Potheri Kunjambu. Two messages given to the people through the novel were as follows.

- Education is an effective tool for the upliftment of lower castes. In this novel an untouchable young man obtains education and becomes a judge in the local court.
- Caste-based inequalities are hindrance to the progress of a society.

Question 21.

Explain the picture of new middle class, which the novel Pariksha guru portrays.

Answer:

Pariksha guru shows the inner and outer world of the newly-emerging middle classes in India. The characters in the novel faced contradiction in adapting to colonized society and the at same time fighting to save their own cultural identity. The world of colonial modernity seems to be both scary and irresistible to the characters of Pariksha guru. The novel sheds light upon the 'right way' to live and hoped all 'sensible men' to be worldly-wise and practical, to remain rooted in the values of their own tradition and culture.

Question 22.

How did novels become popular in India? Explain.

Answer:

The following points show how novels became popular in India.

- As Indians started reading the western novels, the modern novel form developed in India in the nineteenth century. The advent of vernaculars print and a reading public helped in this process.
- Novels became a popular medium of entertainment among the middle class. Detective and mystery novels had to be reprinted many times to meet the demand of the reading public.
- Indians used the novel as a powerful tool to reflect upon what they considered defects in their society and to suggest remedies.
- Novels helped to build a world of imagination where readers could identify themselves with the characters of particular novels.

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]

Question 23.

"Premchand's novels are filled with powerful characters from all levels of society." Justify the statement.

Answer:

Premchand is said to depict characters from real-life situations.

- In his novels, one gets to meet aristocrats and landlords, middle-level peasants and landless labourers, middle-class professionals and people from the margins of society.
- The women characters are strong individuals, especially those who come from the lower classes and are not modernized.
- Drawn from various strata of society, Premchand's characters create a community, based on democratic values. The central character of his novel Rangbhoomi (The Arena), Surdas, is a visually-impaired beggar from the so-called untouchable caste. The very act of choosing such a person as the hero of a novel is significant.
- It makes the lives of the most oppressed section of society worthy of literary reflection.
- Godan (The Gift of Cow), published in 1936, remains Premchand's best-known work. It is an epic on the life of Indian peasantry.

Question 24.

Explain the aspects of Premchand's writings that make them special.

Answer:

The following aspects of Premchand's writings make them special.

- Premchand's novels represent all kinds of strong characters drawn from each level of society. In his novels, one gets to know about the stratification within the society. Premchand gave special focus on the people from the margins of society.
- The women characters are strong individuals, especially those belonging to the lower classes.
- Drawn from various strata of society, Premchand's characters build a community, based on shared democratic values.
- Premchand's novels make the lives and struggles of the most oppressed section worthy of literary reflection.
- Godan (The Gift of Cow), published in 1936, became Premchand's best-known novel.

Short Answer Type Question [3 Marks]

Question 25.

Explain how novels assisted in the spread of silent reading.

Answer:

The novels assisted the spread of silent reading in the following ways.

- In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, written texts were often read aloud for several people to hear.
- Sometimes novels were also read in this fashion, but, in general, novels encouraged reading alone and in silence because readers wanted to understand the nuances of characters.
- Individuals sitting at home or travelling in trains enjoyed reading novels. Even in a crowded room, the novel offered a special world of imagination into which the reader could slip and imagine.

Long Answer Type Questions [5 Marks]

Question 26.

Who is the author of novel Titash Ekti Nadir Naam? Why is it considered a special novel? Explain any four reasons.

Answer:

Titash Ekti Nadir Naam was written by Advita Malla Burman. It is special because of the following reasons.

- It is an epic about the three generations of the Mallas, a community of fish folk in the river Titash.
- It describes their religious traditions, festivals and community relationship.
- The novel highlights the breaking away of the community and the drying of the river, which brought an end to the Malla community.
- The novel is special because the author himself is a low caste from the Malla community, which was earlier featured as the protagonists,

Question 27.

How was the problem of being modern addressed by Indian novelists? Explain.

Answer:

The problem of being modern was addressed by the Indian novelists in the following ways.

- Chandu Menon has been successful in addressing the problem of being modern. Through his novel Indulekha, he showed how Indian and foreign lifestyles could be brought together in an ideal combination.
- Srinivas Das in his novel Pariksha guru cautions the young meq. of the well- to-do families against the dangerous influences of bad company.
- The Indian novels depicted the dilemma of the young to accept the modern ways of life or retain their age-old traditions and cultural identity.
- Fictional characters may easily adopt the western lifestyles, but this was not so in the real life, where the western culture could be accepted only after completely renouncing the earlier habits.
- Stories focused that new western ideas and lifestyle were thought of an ideal way of life and English language was placed higher than the regional language. So, accepting this order would take the young away from their native tongue and traditions.

2012

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 28.

What type of problems were highlighted by the novelist Charles Dickens in his novels? Explain any two such problems,

Answer:

Charles Dickens, the foremost English novelist of Victorian era, wrote about the terrible effects of industrialisation on people's lives and characters. Hard Times and Oliver Twist were two such novels.

- In Hard Times, he portrayed human beings reduced to simple instruments of production along with the greed for profit. He drew a picture of polluted river, smoky environment and sounds of machines everywhere, workers were just hands of production with no identity.
- In Oliver Twist, he depicted a tale of a poor orphan living with petty criminals and beggars. In an urban industrial area, he is brought up in a cruel workhouse and is finally adopted by a wealthy man.

Question 29.

How did novels became popular among masses? Explain with examples.

Answer:

The following were the reasons for the novels becoming popular among masses.

- Print technology reduced the cost of production. Novels became cheap and could be afforded by all.
- The world created by novels was absorbing, believable and real, which attracted a large number of readers.
- Novels were a source of entertainment and provided the pleasure of reading in private and in public, discussion of characters, events and stories.

2011

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 30.

With the help of an example show how the early novels in Europe contributed to colonialism.

Answer:

The early novels in Europe contributed to colonialism in the following ways,

- The early European novels made the readers feel that they were part of superior community.
- Most of the time, colonialism was portrayed as a natural phenomenon by writers.
- Novels depicted colonised people as barbaric, primitive and uncivilised and that colonialism was required to civilise them.
- Novels like Robinson Crusoe strengthen this colonial attitude where Robinson Crusoe, an adventurer and slave trader, treated coloured people as sub-humans.

Question 31.

State the significance of the novels of Premchand.

Answer:

Munshi Premchand was an iconic literary figure of modern Hindi and Urdu literature. It was with his writings that the Hindi novel matured into greatness.

- Premchand drew on traditional art of Kissa-goi (storytelling).
- He dealt with the real-life situations of that time and highlighted the plight of landless labourers, professionals, etc. He wrote on realistic issues like communalism, corruption, debt and poverty.
- The women characters in his novels came from lower class and were portrayed significantly. Many of his novels like Sevasadan were women-centered.

2010

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]

Question 32.

Explain any three features of the early Bengali novels.

Answer:

The following were the features of early Bengali novels.

- Bengali novels in the nineteenth century portrayed two worlds. Some depicted past, its events and characters, other highlighted the inner world of domestic life.
- Some novels were based on love stories. At the same time, besides turns and twists of the plot and suspense, language was also relished.
- Domestic novels frequently dealt with social problems and romantic situations.

Question 33.

Explain how novels became a popular medium of entertainment among the middle class during the late-nineteenth century in India?

Answer:

Novels became a popular medium of entertainment among the middle class during the late-nineteenth century in India in the following ways,

- Novels created absorbing, believable and real world for the readers. Picture books, contemporary stories in newspapers and magazines offered a new form of entertainment for the middle class.
- While reading the novel, the reader transported himself to another world and began looking at life as experienced by the character of the novel.
- Novels allowed the individuals the pleasure of reading in private as well as in public. Detective and mystery novels were widely read.

Question 34.

“Novels were useful for both the colonial administrators and Indians in colonial India.” Support the statement with examples.

Answer:

Novels were useful to both colonisers and nationalists in the following ways.

- For colonial administrators, novels were a source to understand native life and customs. For nationalists, novels were a powerful medium to criticise defects of colonial masters and suggest remedies.
- Novels helped the colonisers to frame policies and govern Indian society with various communities and castes. Novels helped nationalists to establish a relationship with the past and to propagate their ideas about society and its people.
- Novels made the colonisers familiar with Indian domestic life. Novels glorified accounts of past and helped the nationalists in creating a sense of national pride among the readers.

Question 35.

Explain the teachings given by Srinivas Das in his novel Pariksha guru.

Answer:

Pariksha guru was perhaps too moralising in its style. The following were the teachings given by Srinivas Das in its novel Pariksha guru.

- By reflecting the inner and outer world of the newly-emerging middle class, he cautions young men of well-to-do families to live in a right way and expects them to be worldly and practical.
- He stresses the young to remain rooted with their values tradition and culture – and to live with dignity and honour.
- He urges the young to cultivate healthy habit of reading newspapers.

2009

Very Short Answer Type Question [1 Mark]**Question 36.**

Name the two countries of Western Europe where the novel first took firm root.

Answer:

The novel first took firm root in England and France.

Short Answer Type Questions [3 Marks]**Question 37.**

“Colonial administrators found vernacular novels a valuable source of information on native life and customs.” Support the statement with suitable examples.

Answer:

Vernacular novels were a valuable source of information on native life and customs. They were valuable for colonial administrators in the following ways.

- As colonial administrators were outsiders, they knew very little or nothing about Indian households.
- Information on native life and customs that the novels contained was useful for them in governing Indian society with a variety of communities and castes.
- Novels in Indian language depicted domestic life, religious beliefs and practices which were to be kept in mind before framing laws.

Question 38.

Explain any three reasons for the popularity of novels in eighteenth century Europe.

Answer:

The following were the reasons for the popularity of novels in eighteenth century Europe.

- Because of print, novels were cheap as compared to manuscripts. It led novels to be widely read and gain popularity.
- Novels depicted experiences, emotions, relationships and real-life experiences, which attracted the readers. For readers, it opened a new world of experience and gave vivid sense of diversity of human life.
- Novels targeted readers like young, old, women, shopkeepers, clerks and gentleman class through stories of adventure, housekeeping, politics, social life, etc.

Question 39.

In what ways were novels in colonial India useful for both the colonisers as well as the nationalists? Explain.

Answer:

Refer to answer 34.