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By: Dr. H.S. Bhatia & Dr. N.K. Mangla,
M.A. Eng, Ph.D., D.Lit., M.Com., M.Ed.



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Retail Sales Office:

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**Sample Preview
of the
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

BRITISH NOVEL

M.E.G.-3

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Discuss the importance of the structure of *Tom Jones* in the context of its episodic form.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 23, Q. No. 4.

Q. 2. *Pride and Prejudice* represents love as an impossibility in marriage. Do you agree? Give relevant examples.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 61, Q. No. 8.

Q. 3. How does Emily Bronte depict suffering in *Wuthering Heights*? Substantiate through the role of Heathcliff and the circumstances of his life.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 99, Q. No. 4, Page No. 99, Q. No. 5 and Q. No. 6.

Q. 4. *Great Expectations* merges the notions of respectability and criminality. Discuss with examples.

Ans. The problem of crime was a lifelong preoccupation with Dickens's and some of the most fascinating of his early writing has to do with criminality. I cannot here enter into anything like a comprehensive analysis of the ways in which the young Dickens negotiated the problem of crime, but I need to make two points because these help to throw into relief certain transformations that take place in Dickens's attitude to crime as he moves from his early to his late phase.

At first glance respectability in *Great Expectations* does seem to emerge as an internally consistent social sphere whose inner sanctity is preserved by the arbitration of a legal machinery always capable of isolating criminality, and by a whole system, of signs and representations dissociating it from the everyday processes of society. The two convicts who travel with Pip during his journey to Kent compel and receive attention not because they have committed heinous

offences, but because they are an "Exhibition" — "their ironed legs", their "coarse, mangy, ungainly outer surfaces", marking them off socially, culturally and even biologically from the respectable members of society. In *Great Expectations*, the effects of such penal branding are of course most visible in the figure of Magwitch. "The very grain of the man," as Pip puts it, proclaims "a Prisoner, Bondman, plain as plain could be" (pp.352-53). Moreover, Magwitch is closely associated with Australia — that "thief colony" whose dystopian cultural connotations have been detailed in Robert Hughes's *The Fatal Shore*. Let me explain here that "dystopian" is the opposite of utopian. So dystopian would mean hellish Separated from England by a wall "14,000 miles thick", inhabited by her "excrementitious mass", "spinning forever at the outer rim of the world, in ever worsening moral darkness", Australia was, in the Victorian imagination, "a cloaca, invisible, its contents filthy and unnameable". In this sense, Magwitch is the inscrutable "other" of Victorian respectability. The 'other' then is the criminal who inhabits the dark, incomprehensible domain outside "respectability" — somebody in whose being every fantasy about crime can be contained. To Pip, Magwitch might be guilty of "I knew not of what crimes".

The connections between criminality and respectability that the plot suggests, when it reveals that Magwitch rather than Miss Havisham is Pip's secret benefactor, is reinforced at the thematic level by the activities of the lawyer Jaggers. Thus Jaggers represents a legal system which is overtly dedicated to the business of segregating, by a strictly objective system, the criminal from the respectable. Moreover we also saw that this rooting out of criminality is reinforced by a whole system of branding that projects the criminal as the easily recognisable "other" of respectability. Yet

this displacement of all forms of illegality on the pathologised figure of the branded criminal also serves to keep in the shade away from public scrutiny the innumerable transactions that go on all the time between the respectable and the criminal world.

Q. 5. Bring out the role of the community in determining character and behaviour in *Middlemarch*.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 161, Q. No. 6.

Q. 6. Bring out the significance of the description “He died as he lived”, in the context of Kurtz in *The Heart of Darkness*.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 181, Q. No. 3 and Page No. 190, ‘Kurtz’s Condition’.

Q. 7. Joyce uses a narrative technique which is integral to the unfolding of *A Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man*. Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 214, Q. No. 5 and Page No. 217, Q. No. 7.

Q. 8. *A Passage to India* is structured around a web of themes. Discuss any two with reference to the associated characters.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 239, Q. No. 3.

Q. 9. Discuss any two characters from Spark’s novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* bringing out their ideological differences.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 268, Q. No. 6.



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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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TOM JONES

■ Henry Fielding (1707-54)

LIFE AND WORKS

Q. Write a brief note on life and works of Henry Fielding.

Ans. Henry Fielding was born in 1707 at Shapham Park, near Glastonbury. He belonged to an aristocratic family. He received his education at Eton.

Play-Writing—Fielding wanted to study law, but he could not do so as his father refused to help him financially. So, he took to play-writing. It was the Augustan age when besides poetry, play-writing was a lucrative job.

In all, Fielding wrote 16 plays, but he could not come out as quite a successful play-wright. However, his following plays are worth-mentioning—

(i) **Love in Several Masques (1728)**

(ii) **Tragedy of Tragedy Or The Life and Death of Tom Thumb the Great (1731)**

(iii) **Don Quixote in England.** The song “*The Roast Beef of Old England*” in this play became quite popular.

Novel-Writing—At last Fielding realized that his genius was not fit for play-writing. He again tried his hand at the Bar. But meanwhile, he was stunned by the tremendous success of Richardson’s **Pamela**. In his **Joseph Andrews** (1742), his first novel, he tried to present a parody to Pamela. In doing so, he gave a new touch to the English novel which was still at its initial stages.

Joseph Andrews proved a success. In 1743, Fielding published his famous ironical fiction—**Jonathan Wild**—which formed a part of the three volumes of his **Miscellanies**.

After trying his hand at journalism for sometime, Fielding published his epoch-making novel, **Tom Jones**. He wrote **Amelia** in 1751. His last book **A Voyage to Lisbon** was published posthumously.

His Personal Experiences

The following are some of the personal experiences of Fielding which gave such a sweep to his novels—

(i) **His Poverty.** Although he belonged to an aristocratic family, yet his inheritance was not much. So, he saw poverty from close angles.

(ii) His experiences as a lawyer, journalist and magistrate enabled him to know a lot about all kinds of men.

(iii) His handsome body and amiable nature attracted for him a large number of friends. This gave an impetus to his animal spirits.

(iv) He had a personal experience of at least two love affairs—first with Miss Sarah Andrew and second with Miss Charlotte Craddock.

BOOK-WISE COMPLETE SUMMARY

VOLUME-I

Q. 2. Give a brief book-wise summary of Tom Jones.

Ans. There are in all 18 books in Tom Jones. These books are further divided into Chapters which are different in different books. A brief book-wise summary of Tom Jones is given below. Fielding’s own words are given verbatim in the beginning of each book.

BOOK-I

Fielding’s Note—Containing as much of the birth of the Foundling as is necessary or proper to acquaint the reader with in the beginning of this History.

Once there was a Squire named Allworthy. He lived in Somersetshire. Since his wife as well as all the three of his children had died, he lived with his sister, Miss Bridget Allworthy in his country villa. She is 30 years old.

One day as Allworthy retired into his chamber at night, he was surprised to find an infant in his bed. He called the housekeeper, Mrs. Deborah Wilkins, and handed over the child to her for proper care.

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The next morning the Squire presented the infant to his sister. She was greatly surprised. She told her to bring up the child as her own son. She agreed.

The charge of finding out the infant's mother is entrusted to Mrs. Wilkins for this purpose, the housekeeper went to the parish. From the information she is able to collect, it is believed that Jenny Jones could be the mother of the child. For several years she has been a servant to Mrs Partridge. She readily confesses to Mrs Wilkins to be the child's mother.

As Jenny is brought to the Squire, the latter scolds her and asks her to reveal the name of her seducer. But she refuses to do so.

A quack doctor, Bilfil often visits the Squire and partakes the latter's hospitality and generosity. Once his brother Captain Bilfil who is about 35, pays a short visit. He and the Squire's sister fall in love with each-other and are secretly married.

Dr. Bilfil knows that the Squire is a man of liberal views. So, finding an appropriate moment, he discloses the secret of the marriage of his brother and the Squire's sister. The Squire does not feel upset and takes the marriage lightly.

The Captain proves ungrateful to his brother and ill-treats him. The latter leaves for London and there he dies after some time.

BOOK-II

Fielding's Note—Containing scenes of matrimonial Felicity in Different Degrees of life; and various other transactions during the first two years after the Marriage between Captain Bilfil and Miss Bridget Allworthy.

A fine boy is born to Miss Bridget eight months after her marriage with the Captain. The boy Bilfil and the foundling are brought up together.

Jenny Jones is servant to Mr. Partridge. Mrs. Partridge gets suspicious that she has a relationship with her husband. So, she dismisses her. There spreads a rumour after some time that Jenny has given birth to two bastards. Mr. Partridge is believed to be their father. Relations between Mr. and Mrs Partridge get strained on this account.

The matter is reported to the Squire. The latter sends for Mr. Partridge. The latter denies the allegation. The Squire sends for Jenny, but she cannot be found anywhere. The Squire now believes that Mr. Partridge and Jenny Jones are the parents of the foundling. Partridge is dismissed from service. He leaves the

country without informing anybody about his destination. Meanwhile, Mrs. Partridge has died.

Captain Bilfil is bent on driving away Tommy (the foundling) from the house of Squire Allworthy. But his wife wants that he should remain there. The relations between husband and wife get strained.

However, as the Captain is a patient of apoplexy, one day, he suddenly dies of a fit.

BOOK-III

Fielding Note—Containing the most memorable transactions which passed in the family of Mr. Allworthy, from the time when Tommy Jones arrived at the age of fourteen, till he attained the age of nineteen. In this Book the reader may pick up some hints concerning the education of children.

A period of 12 years has passed. Tom is now fourteen years old. He is a very mischievous boy. As Fielding himself says, "..... *it was the universal opinion of all Mr. Allworthy's family, that he was certainly born to be hanged.*" (Chapter 2)

The boy had already been "*convicted of three robberies, viz. of robbing an orchard, of stealing a duck not of a farmer's yard, and of picking Master Bilfil's pocket of a ball.*" (Chapter 2)

In this Book, we get an inkling of Tom's chivalrous nature to suffer torture to save others from trouble.

It so happens that Tom goes one day for shooting with a game-keeper, named Black George. The place is about three hundred yards away from Allworthy's estate. The two trespass into the manor. They shoot with their guns at the Partridges at the same time.

The own of the manor, on hearing the shots appears there on horseback. The game-keeper hides behind a bush. The matter is brought to the notice of Allworthy. He is told that although Tom claims to be alone, yet there must be another person as two simultaneous shots were heard.

The next morning, Thwackum, the tutor of Tom and Master Bilfil, thrashes Tom to extort the truth from him. But Tom remains adamant that he was alone.

Another gentleman who resides in Allworthy's house is Thomas Square. He is a great scholar and philosopher. Like Thwackum, he is very indulgent to Master Bilfil, but harsh to Tom.

Strangely enough, even the neighbours are greatly impressed by "*the virtues of Master Bilfil.*" Fielding

himself says, "*He was, indeed, a lad of a remarkable disposition; sober, discreet and pious, beyond his age.*" (Chapter 2). This is, in fact, the neighbours' view.

There is no doubt that Allworthy is a man of great generosity and compassion. He feels sorry for the merciless beating given to Tom by Thwackum. In order to console the boy, he gives him a little horse.

Meanwhile Master Bilfil calls Tom "a beggarly bastard." The remark is sufficient to arouse Tom's anger and he gives Bilfil a bloody nose.

Master Bilfil appears before the Squire with his bloody nose and tears running down his cheeks. Incidentally, there is a mention of the earlier incident with the game-keeper, as Tom appears before Allworthy.

Tom holds Allworthy in high esteem. He tells him the whole story truthfully, explaining the reason for his telling a lie. He says, "Indeed, sir, it could hardly be called a lie that I told; for the poor fellow was entirely innocent of the whole matter. I should have gone alone after the bird : nay, I did go first and he only followed me to prevent more mischief. Do pray sir, let me be punished, take my little horse away again; pray sir, forgive poor George." (III, 4)

This creates a good impression on Allworthy about Tom's sincerity, bravery and generosity. He lets the boys go abusing them to live like good friends. Unfortunately, Allworthy is unable to show generosity to George and dismisses him from service. The poor fellow is rendered unemployed and becomes miserable due to poverty.

Here we come across another generosity when we learn that Tom sells off his horse and gives the entire sale proceeds to George.

Here, we also learn about Thwackum's harshness towards Tom. He asks the boy what he did with the money he got by selling the horse. Tom refuses to give any answer. Thwackum is about to thrash the boy when the Squire suddenly appears.

Tom truthfully explains everything to Allworthy, saying, "It was to save them (George and his family) from absolute destruction that I parted with your dear present notwithstanding all the value I had for it. I sold the horse for them and they have every farthing of the money." (Book III, Chapter 8)

Mr. Allworthy is so much impressed by Tom's altruistic nature that tears appear in his eyes. He gently scolds the boy and tells him to have a word with him whenever he wants to relieve others of any misfortune.

Mr. Allworthy is ready to re-employ George, but Bilfil poisons the Squire's ears against George. So, Tom decides to meet Squire Western's daughter, Sophia, in order to get an employment for George with Squire Western.

BOOK-IV

Fielding's Note—Containing the Time of a Year—Book IV may, to a great extent, be called a book of Sophia's description or partly of Sophia-Tom relationship.

In this book, we have beautiful pieces of description about Sophia. This, in particular is the case with Chapter 2 of the book. Sophia's first appearance is described in the following manner—"Adorned with all the charms in which nature can array her; bedecked with beauty, youth, sprightliness, innocence, modesty and tenderness; breathing sweetness from her rosy lips and darting brightness from her sparkling eyes, the lovely Sophia comes."

Fielding tells us about the beauty of different parts of Sophia's body. "Her shape was not only exact, but extremely delicate: Her hair, which was black, was so luxuriant, that it reached her middle Her eyebrows were full, even and arched beyond the power of art to imitate. Her black eyes had a lustre in them, which all her softness could not extinguish. Her nose was exactly regular, and her mouth in which were two rows of ivory, exactly answered Sir John Suckling's description Her neck was long and finely turned"

The charm of Sophia's mind was no less arresting than that of her body: "Her mind was every way equal to her person; nay, the latter borrowed some charms from the former; for when she smiled, the sweetness of her temper diffused that glory over her countenance which no regularity of features can give.

Sophia was a well-bred, educated young girl. She is in her eighteenth year when she first makes her appearance in the novel. Tom has already impressed her with a small act of chivalry which is mentioned briefly below—

Once Tom presented a small bird to Sophia which she liked very much. Chapter One day Master Bilfil (who had a malicious nature) cut off the string from the bird's leg and it flew away. It perched itself on the bough of a tree. Sophia screamed loudly. Tom at once rushed and climbed up the tree. The branch of the tree broke down and he fell down into the canal below. Sophia shouted loudly at the top of her voice. The people rushed

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forward. Tom, however, came back safe and sound, but the incident greatly impressed Sophia.

On Tom's insistence, Sophia recommends George's care to her father. Squire Western readily takes Black George into his service.

Black George has five children. One of them is his cunning daughter, Molly. One day, as she goes to the Church, she is assaulted by some women but Tom's timely appearance saves her from any harm.

Unfortunately for Tom, after some time, Molly gives birth to a child. She is brought before Allworthy. The latter wants to send her to prison. Again Tom's timely intervention saves her from incarceration. Tom takes the blame upon himself saying that it was he who abused her. In fact, he actually considers himself to be the child's father.

In another incident, Tom saves Sophia from harm. It so happens that Sophia's horse suddenly starts prancing. She is in danger of falling down. Tom at once jumps down from his own horse and catches at the bridle of Sophia's horse. In the process of controlling the mauling horse. Sophia falls down but Tom catches her in his arms and saves her from harm. But his own left arm is broken. He is taken to his own house by Squire Western and there his arm is set. He has already got fascinated of Sophia's charm and in turn he has also greatly impressed her and her father.

BOOK-V

Fielding's Note—Containing a portion of time, somewhat longer than half a year.

Both Tom and Sophia develop deep love for each other. Tom spends a sleepless night thinking about Sophia. But he also wants to remain faithful to Molly. However, there takes place an incident which impresses greatly Tom's maid about Sophia.

Once Mrs Honours, Tom's maid-servant told Tom that Sophia greatly valued her muff which he had once kissed. This fact is corroborated from a minor incident. One day in the course of conversation in the presence of Squire Western, Sophia's old muff falls down. The Squire throws it down into fire, but Sophia at once takes it out. Tom is convinced that Sophia actually values the old muff highly.

Qualms of conscience greatly perturb Tom. He decides to remain faithful to poor Molly. So, one day he goes to see her. She takes a lot of time in opening the door.

As Molly opens the door to Tom, she expresses her deep love for him.

But suddenly a curtain in her room falls down and to Jones's great surprise, the philosopher Square is found hidden behind the curtain in her bed-room.

Tom takes this incident lightly. He laughs heartily and promises the philosopher that he would keep his visit a secret. He, however, advises him to be faithful and kind to her. Sometime later, he comes to know that Will Barnes, another lover of Molly, was the real father of the child who he had thought was his. Thereafter he leaves Molly for ever.

Squire Allworthy falls seriously ill. He makes a will in which he bequeaths the major portion of his property to Master Bilfil and only a small part to Tom and his sister. Meanwhile, his sister suddenly dies.

Soon thereafter, Allworthy recovers. Tom is so happy that he drinks a lot of wine. In his drunken state he quarrels with Bilfil, but a reconciliation is brought about by Thwackum and the physician.

Then Jones goes into the fields where he meets Molly unexpectedly. But on the arrival of Bilfil Thwackum there, Molly hides in a thick grove. As Tom refuses to reveal to Bilfil the name of his companion, there is a fight between the two. Tom gets a bloody nose and Bilfil falls down on the ground. Squire Western and Sophia also suddenly arrive. On seeing Tom's bloody nose, Sophia faints, but the Squire thinks she has fainted on seeing Bilfil's condition.

VOLUME-II

BOOK-VI

Fielding's Note—Containing about three weeks.

Mrs Western, Squire Western's sister has been observing Sophia closely. She got almost confirmed in her mind that she was in love with Tom. One day, she entered into a dialogue with her brother—

"Pray, brother, have you not observed something very extraordinary in my niece lately?" She says to him.

"No, not I," answered Western; "Is anything the matter with the girl?"

"I think there is", replies she, "and something of much consequence too."

"Why she doth not complain of anything," cries Western, "and she hath had the small-pox."

"Brother," returned she, "girls are liable to other distempers besides the small-pox and sometimes possibly to much worse."