



NEERAJ®

BRITISH LITERATURE : 18TH CENTURY

B.E.G.C.- 108

B.A. English (Hons.) - 4th Semester

**Chapter Wise Reference Book
Including Many Solved Sample Papers**

Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

I.G.N.O.U.

& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities

By: Kshiyama Sagar Meher



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Retail Sales Office:

1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : info@neerajbooks.com Website : www.neerajbooks.com

MRP ₹ 280/-

Published by:



NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Retail Sales Office: 1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : info@neerajbooks.com Website : www.neerajbooks.com

© Copyright Reserved with the Publishers only.

Reprint Edition with Updation of Sample Question Paper Only

Typesetting by: Competent Computers, Printed at: Novelty Printing Press

Disclaimer/T&C

1. For the best & up-to-date study & results, please prefer the recommended textbooks/study material only.
2. This book is just a Guide Book/Reference Book published by NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS based on the suggested syllabus by a particular Board/University.
3. These books are prepared by the author for the help, guidance and reference of the student to get an idea of how he/she can study easily in a short time duration. Content matter & Sample answers given in this Book may be Seen as the Guide/Reference Material only. Neither the publisher nor the author or seller will be responsible for any damage or loss due to any mistake, error or discrepancy as we do not claim the Accuracy of these Solutions/Answers. Any Omission or Error is highly regretted though every care has been taken while preparing, printing, composing and proofreading of these Books. As all the Composing, Printing, Publishing and Proof Reading, etc., are done by Human only and chances of Human Error could not be denied. Any mistake, error or discrepancy noted may be brought to the publishers notice which shall be taken care of in the next edition and thereafter as a good gesture by our company he/she would be provided the rectified Book free of cost. Please consult your Teacher/Tutor or refer to the prescribed & recommended study material of the university/board/institute/ Govt. of India Publication or notification if you have any doubts or confusions regarding any information, data, concept, results, etc. before you appear in the exam or Prepare your Assignments before submitting to the University/Board/Institute.
4. In case of any dispute whatsoever the maximum anybody can claim against NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS is just for the price of the Book.
5. The number of questions in NEERAJ study materials are indicative of general scope and design of the question paper.
6. Any type of ONLINE Sale/Resale of "NEERAJ BOOKS" published by "NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS" in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book on any Website, Web Portals, any Social Media Platforms – Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn etc. and also on any Online Shopping Sites, like – Amazon, Flipkart, eBay, Snapdeal, Meesho, Kindle, etc., is strictly not permitted without prior written permission from NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS. Any such online sale activity of any NEERAJ BOOK in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book format by an Individual, Company, Dealer, Bookseller, Book Trader or Distributor will be termed as ILLEGAL SALE of NEERAJ BOOKS and will invite legal action against the offenders.
7. The User agrees Not to reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell or exploit for any commercial purposes, any portion of these Books without the written permission of the publisher. This book or part thereof cannot be translated or reproduced in any form (except for review or criticism) without the written permission of the publishers.
8. All material prewritten or custom written is intended for the sole purpose of research and exemplary purposes only. We encourage you to use our material as a research and study aid only. Plagiarism is a crime, and we condone such behaviour. Please use our material responsibly.
9. All matters, terms & disputes are subject to Delhi Jurisdiction only.

Get books by Post & Pay Cash on Delivery :

If you want to Buy NEERAJ BOOKS by post then please order your complete requirement at our Website www.neerajbooks.com where you can select your Required NEERAJ BOOKS after seeing the Details of the Course, Subject, Printed Price & the Cover-pages (Title) of NEERAJ BOOKS.

While placing your Order at our Website www.neerajbooks.com You may also avail the “Special Discount Schemes” being offered at our Official website www.neerajbooks.com.

No need to pay in advance as you may pay “Cash on Delivery” (All The Payment including the Price of the Book & the Postal Charges, etc.) are to be Paid to the Delivery Person at the time when You take the Delivery of the Books & they shall Pass the Value of the Goods to us. We usually dispatch the books Nearly within 2-3 days after we receive your order and it takes Nearly 3-4 days in the postal service to reach your Destination (In total it take nearly 6-7 days).

Content

BRITISH LITERATURE : 18TH CENTURY

Question Bank – (Previous Year Solved Question Papers)

Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved)	1-2
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in July-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in March-2022 (Solved)	1-2
Sample Question Paper–1 (Solved)	1

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
--------------	-----------------------------------	-------------

BLOCK-I : DANIEL DEFOE : *ROBINSON CRUSOE*

1. Daniel Defoe: Life, Works and <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>	1
2. <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> : An Analysis	12
3. <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> : Themes	21
4. <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> : Character Analysis	30

BLOCK-II : JONATHAN SWIFT: *GULLIVER’S TRAVELS*

5. Jonathan Swift : Life and Works	39
6. <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i> : Philosophical and Political Background	47
7. <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i> : Books I-III: Characters, Summary, Themes and Analysis	56
8. <i>Gulliver’s Travels</i> : Book IV: Summary, Themes and Analysis	65

BLOCK-III : WILLIAM CONGREVE: *THE WAY OF THE WORLD*

9. William Congreve: Life and Works	74
10. <i>The Way of The World</i> : A Summary	82
11. <i>The Way of The World</i> : Themes	92
12. <i>The Way of the World</i> : Symbols, Allegories and Motifs	100

**BLOCK-IV : THOMAS GRAY :
*ELEGY WRITTEN IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD***

13. Thomas Gray: Introduction to the Life, Times and Works	109
14. A Summary and Critical Analysis of Thomas Gray's..... <i>Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard</i>	118
15. Thomas Gray's <i>Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard: Themes</i>	130
16. Thomas Gray: Critical Essays on the <i>Elegy</i>	138



**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

BRITISH LITERATURE: 18TH CENTURY **B.E.G.C.-108**

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt all the questions. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-A

Q. 1. Attempt the following with reference to the context:

(a) Bildungsroman

Ans. Bildungsroman, class of novel that depicts and explores the manner in which the protagonist develops morally and psychologically. The German word Bildungsroman means “novel of education” or “novel of formation.” The folklore tale of the dunce who goes out into the world seeking adventure and learns wisdom the hard way was raised to literary heights in Wolfram von Eschenbach’s medieval epic Parzival and in Hans Grimmshausen’s picaresque tale Simplicissimus (1669). The first novelistic development of this theme was Christoph Martin Wieland’s Geschichte des Agathon (1766-67; History of Agathon). It was followed by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre (1795-96; Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship), which remains the classic example of the genre. Other examples are Adalbert Stifter’s Nachsommer (1857; Indian Summer) and Gottfried Keller’s Der grüne Heinrich (1854-55; Green Henry).

The bildungsroman traditionally ends on a positive note, though its action may be tempered by resignation and nostalgia. If the grandiose dreams of the hero’s youth are over, so are many foolish mistakes and painful disappointments, and, especially in 19th-century novels, a life of usefulness lies ahead. In the 20th century and beyond, however, the bildungsroman more often ends in resignation or death. Classic examples include Great Expectations (1861) by Charles Dickens, Anne of Green Gables (1908) by Lucy Maud Montgomery, Sons and Lovers (1913) by D.H. Lawrence, Member of the Wedding (1946) by Carson McCullers, Catcher in the Rye (1951) by J.D. Salinger,

To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) by Harper Lee, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit (1985) by Jeanette Winterson, and Black Swan Green (2006) by David Mitchell.

A common variation of the bildungsroman is the Künstlerroman, a novel dealing with the formative years of an artist. Such other variations as the Erziehungsroman (“novel of upbringing”) and the Entwicklungsroman (“novel of [character] development”) differ only slightly from the bildungsroman, and these terms are sometimes used interchangeably.

(b) Crusoe’s Sojourn on the Island

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, Q. No. 2.

(c) Satire

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 40, ‘Satire in the Classical and the Neo-Classical Age’.

(d) Elegy

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 116, Q. No. 2 and Q. No. 3.

(e) Comedy of Errors

Ans. *The Comedy of Errors* is one of William Shakespeare’s early plays. It is his shortest and one of his most farcical comedies, with a major part of the humour coming from slapstick and mistaken identity, in addition to puns and word play. It has been adapted for opera, stage, screen and musical theatre numerous times worldwide. In the centuries following its premiere, the play’s title has entered the popular English lexicon as an idiom for “an event or series of events made ridiculous by the number of errors that was made throughout”.

Set in the Greek city of Ephesus, *The Comedy of Errors* tells the story of two sets of identical twins who were accidentally separated at birth. Antipholus of Syracuse and his servant, Dromio of Syracuse, arrive

in Ephesus, which turns out to be the home of their twin brothers, Antipholus of Ephesus and his servant, Dromio of Ephesus. When the Syracusans encounter the friends and families of their twins, a series of wild mishaps based on mistaken identities lead to wrongful beatings, a near-seduction, the arrest of Antipholus of Ephesus, and false accusations of infidelity, theft, madness, and demonic possession.

The play is a modernised adaptation of *Menaechmi* by Plautus. As William Warner's translation of the classical drama was entered into the Register of the Stationers Company on 10 June 1594, published in 1595, and dedicated to Lord Hunsdon, the patron of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, it has been supposed that Shakespeare might have seen the translation in manuscript before it was printed – though it is equally possible that he knew the play in the original Latin.

The play contains a topical reference to the wars of succession in France, which would fit any date from 1589 to 1595. Charles Whitworth argues that *The Comedy of Errors* was written "in the latter part of 1594" on the basis of historical records and textual similarities with other plays Shakespeare wrote around this time. The play was not published until it appeared in the First Folio in 1623.

(f) "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike the inevitable hour
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

Ans. Context: These lines are taken from *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* by Thomas Gray.

Explanation: See Chapter-14, Page No. 119, 'Summary'.

(g) "Full many a gem of purest serene,
The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:
Fully many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness of the desert air."

Ans. Context: These lines are taken from Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*.

Explanation: Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 121, 'Summary'.

SECTION-B

Note: Answer the following questions:

Q. 2. Critically comment on the importance of repentance for the resolution of the plot of *Robinson Crusoe*.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 23, Q. No. 1 and Q. No. 2.

Q. 3. Critically evaluate Laputa as an absolutist state.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 59, 'Laputa: An Absolutist State' and Page No. 60, Q. No. 2.

Q. 4. What purpose do the epigraph and prologue serve in the play 'The Way of the World'?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 82, 'Epigraph, Prologue' and Page No. 85, Q. No. 1.

Q. 5. How did the early eighteenth century poets deal with commercial trends?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 130, 'Introduction' and Page No. 132, Q. No. 2.

Q. 6. Critically evaluate the politico-historical circumstances of 17th and 18th century England.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Politico-Historical Circumstances of 17th and 18th Century England'.

SECTION-C

Note: Answer the following questions:

Q. 7. Comment on the theme of "Civilization versus Savagery" in *Robinson Crusoe*.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 22, 'Civilisation versus Savagery' and Page No. 24, Q. No. 6.

Q. 8. How does Swift challenge the traditional idea that humans are rational animals?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 47, 'A Horse is no Man', Page No. 51, Q. No. 1 and Page No. 66, 'Critique by Reason'.

Q. 9. Comment on the title of the play 'The Way of the World'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 101, 'Title of the Play' and Page No. 105, Q. No. 1.

Q. 10. Critically evaluate the representation of the city versus the country in 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 131, 'Gray's Classicism: 'Pastoral' Representations of the City Versus the Country'.



Sample Preview of The Chapter

Published by:



**NEERAJ
PUBLICATIONS**

www.neerajbooks.com

BRITISH LITERATURE :

18TH CENTURY

BLOCK-I : DANIEL DEFOE : *ROBINSON CRUSOE*

Daniel Defoe: Life, Works and *Robinson Crusoe*



INTRODUCTION

Understanding the political circumstances of the period when the writer lived helped in better understanding of his writing. In this chapter, we will study the biographical details of Daniel Defoe before we study his works. His fiction *Robinson Crusoe* is an adventure story, a cautionary tale upholding Christian morality, a spiritual auto-biography and a celebration of individualism. We will summarise the novel to know the factors that shape the bildungsroman of the eponymous hero.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF DANIEL DEFOE

Defoe was born in London in 1660 to a family of Presbyterian Dissenters, and educated at a dissenting academy in Newington Green. He studied science and humanities and prepared to become a Presbyterian minister, but gave up the plan and became a merchant, dealing in different commodities including hosiery.

POLITICO-HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY ENGLAND

England faced volatile political situation when Defoe lived in the 17th and 18th century. Besides his luck in trade, Defoe also tried to be a polemical writer. When Defoe was born, Charles II's restoration to the throne happened. King and Parliament struggled with one another for political clout. In 1683, Defoe released his first political pamphlet.

Defoe vociferously expressed his politico-religious affiliation. After the death of Charles II, his brother, James, took charge in 1685 and aggravated the already explosive political situation. James II, a Roman Catholic and an ally of England's political rival France, was seen by his opponents as a danger to the Church of England as well as to civil liberties during a time when the country had just come out of a civil war (1642-1651) that was fought to protect liberties. Towards the end of 1688, James II was displaced by his nephew and son-in-law, William of Orange, after a series of episodes called the 'Glorious Revolution.' Defoe was a passionate supporter of William III and became his leading pamphleteer and eulogised this revolution as championing the cause of the Protestant people of England against persecution and discrimination of religious minorities.

After William III died, "Tories" became more powerful and Defoe faced a series of setbacks and was constantly persecuted as a Dissenter. Dissenters were generally "Whigs" and the political tide once again turned against them after William III's death. In response to ever-increasing aggressive Toryism, Defoe wrote "The Shortest Way with Dissenters," where he lampooned High Anglican extremism that led to his prosecution and brief imprisonment. After his release from jail, he was stuck in a public pillory for three days. Subsequent ministries appointed Defoe as a propagandist and also a spy. His circumstances, both social and financial, compelled him to swear loyalty to

2 / NEERAJ : BRITISH LITERATURE : 18TH CENTURY

the Tory party when he served as Queen Anne's pamphleteer. However, he faced financial problems and died of a stroke while trying to escape from an indefatigable creditor in 1731.

DANIEL DEFOE – LIFE, WORKS AND THE ENGLISH NOVEL

Robinson Crusoe was published in 1719. After this, a series of other fictional narratives followed including its sequels – *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* and *Serious Reflections During the Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, and other works like *Moll Flanders*, *Colonel Jack*, *Captain Singleton*, *Memoirs of a Cavalier*, *Journal of the Plague Year* and *Roxana*. These writings made him the progenitor of the English novel.

With the fictional writings of Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson and Henry Fielding, the period saw the development of realistic writing in the fictional works. The genre of the novel replaced the courtly form of romance, which was primarily obsessed with the ideals of chivalry. Written in an allegorical mode, romances had dealt with idealised figures of knights and ladies and traced their fantastical expeditions in picturesque landscapes and were usually concerned with universal truths instead of the particularity of the experience. The courtly forms of literature required a taste refined by education in classical learning and cultivated leisure.

The novels dealt with the middle class and their aspirations and values that started to be conspicuous since the 18th century. The development of the realist novel renounced the magical and the outlandish and very self-consciously tried to attempt a faithful imitation of "social reality." *Robinson Crusoe* was one of those first few fictional accounts that constantly drew attention to the authenticity of an individual's experiences and its narrative style urged the readers to believe in the "realism" it foregrounds by giving minute details.

SUMMARY OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

A quick summary of *Robinson Crusoe* is given below.

Summary of the Preface

Robinson Crusoe is a "Private man's adventures in the world." It can also be called a "Just history of fact." It is unassuming, sincere and didactic in its style and instructs one to acknowledge and pay due respect to "The wisdom of Providence."

Summary of the Story

This is the story of *Robinson Crusoe*, an Englishman from the town of York. Crusoe narrates

his own story. The youngest of the three sons of a fairly well-to do merchant of German origin, Crusoe highlights how his father tries to persuade him to study law for a secure life and not waste the privileges inherited from of his social position. Crusoe tries to fulfil his familial commitments and obligations, but he is unable to suppress his desire for the sea voyage. Much to the grief of his parents, he gives in to temptation and goes on a ship bound for London on September 1, 1651 with one of his friends. During his first sea journey, he faces a violent storm that drives him and his friend very near to death. He takes it as a divine warning that he should quit sea voyage. However, Crusoe does not get daunted by this and establishes himself as a successful merchant on a ship leaving from London. He makes a fortune as a merchant and plans another voyage.

His second voyage brings misfortune for him as his ship is besieged by the Moorish pirates and Crusoe is captured and made a slave in the North African town of Sallee. Once out fishing, Crusoe and another slave boy, Xury, manage to escape and sail away. A good natured Portuguese captain helps them reach Brazil and expresses a desire to buy Xury from Crusoe. On this, Crusoe faces some moral dilemma, but agrees to sell him on the condition that the captain will set him free after ten years. In Brazil, Crusoe sets himself up as a tobacco plantation owner and becomes financially successful. The success makes Crusoe restless to do something and he plans to get black slaves from West Africa. However, things do not go as per plan and he ends up shipwrecked and miserable on the Trinidad coast.

Crusoe comes to terms with his situation and undergoes an emotional turmoil after going through intense grief and despair. He feels gratitude to God for having saved his life and decides to start his life afresh. He makes twelve trips to the wreck's remains to get guns, food and other items that can prove useful to him. To protect himself from savages, he perseveres to build himself a "fortress."

On the coast, he finds goats which provide him with sustenance. He erects a cross and carves it with the date of his arrival on the island, September 1, 1659, and makes a notch every day so that in the absence of anything to record time, he does not get lost in a sea of chronological confusion. He also maintains a journal where he records his daily activities, including his struggles and achievements and serendipitous moments such as candle-making, accidental discovery of sprouting grains, his building of a cellar and many such episodes.

In June 1660, Crusoe falls sick and he believes that an angel visits him and makes him to repent. While drinking tobacco-steeped rum, Crusoe has an epiphany and comes to believe that his soul has been purified and God has delivered him from his former sins. He starts reading the New Testament that he finds in the wreck and sees his island experience not as a punishment but as a kind of deliverance from his erstwhile life where he has sinned. After his recovery he maps and surveys the area. He finds a cornucopian valley where he builds a shady retreat for himself. After experiencing a surge of positivity and optimism at the prospect of being on the island, he declares himself as its “King.” Meanwhile, he finishes his ink and discontinues the writing his journal. He trains a pet parrot, adopts a goat as his pet and learns various skills such as basket-weaving, bread-making and pottery.

Out of a gigantic cedar tree, he makes a big canoe from its wood. When he realises that it is not viable to the canoe to the sea, he builds a smaller boat and sails around the island.

He narrowly escapes drowning when his boat is tossed by a forceful wave. He expresses his gratitude to God for sparing his life.

He gets elated with his “absolute command” over all the subjects of his little kingdom on the island and provides the readers with an inventory of his possessions which includes his two homes, the “fortress” and the “country seat,” grape valley, agricultural lands and enclosures for the grazing of his cattle.

He continues his hard work for several years without any disruptions. One day, Crusoe is horrified to see a man’s footprint on the island. He assumes the footprint to be that of a cannibal who he believes resides close by. After that he arms himself and becomes very vigilant. He takes various steps to avoid being discovered or seen by the cannibals.

While reading the *Bible* one day, he hears gunshots and comes to find the next day a ship wrecked on his coast. On investigation, he finds that the men on it are either dead or gone. He rummages through the ship and realises that it is Spanish and manages to find some ruined provisions and clothing, gold bars, etc. Crusoe thinks of leaving the island and wonders about what might have happened had he heeded his father’s warnings and never left home or had he been satisfied with the profit of the tobacco plantations in Brazil.

Soon he finds out that the island is scattered with dead human bodies which resemble the aftermath of a cannibal feast. Soon after that, he sees a group of thirty cannibals heading for the shore with their victims. One of the victims who is about to be slaughtered, manages to flee and seeks shelter in Crusoe’s home. Crusoe guards him and slays and injures some of the cannibals and eventually defeats most of them. The victim promises total submission to Crusoe and vows to serve him selflessly. Crusoe calls him Friday to solemnise the day on which he is rescued. He teaches him a few English words and some fundamental Christian tenets.

Friday tells him more about the cannibals and appries Crusoe that the cannibals are responsible for rescuing the men from the shipwreck that Crusoe encountered earlier and those men, the Spaniards, are residing in close proximity among the natives.

Friday and Crusoe make a boat to visit the land of the cannibals. But they manage to leave, they see the arrival of twenty-one cannibals in canoes. The cannibals have three victims in their custody and one of them is *prima facie* a European. Crusoe and Friday kill most of the cannibals and secure the release of the captives. One of the rescued victims is Friday’s father. The other rescued man is a Spaniard. All of them come to Crusoe’s dwelling for food and shelter. Crusoe makes provisions to welcome them into his community.

Later, he sends Friday and his father to survey and explore the island nearby. They encounter an approaching English ship which terrifies Friday and makes Crusoe cautious. Eleven men from that ship take three prisoners onshore in a boat. Nine of them go on an exploring expedition of the area while two of them stay back to watch over the prisoners. Friday and Crusoe manage to subdue these men and secure the release of the prisoners. One of the prisoners is the captain of the ship, which had been seized through a mutiny. Crusoe and Friday confront the rest of the mutineers. Crusoe agrees to spare their lives on the condition that the ringleader, Will Atkins, pays the price for the mutiny. These mutineers then surrender and Crusoe and the rescued captain regain control over the ship. The captain expresses gratitude to Crusoe for helping him retrieve his besieged ship and gives him many gifts. He also offers to take him and Friday back to England.

On December 19, 1686, Crusoe departs for England. On arrival in England, Crusoe finds his widow friend has kept his money safe and he has become a very prosperous man. However, all his family members

4 / NEERAJ : BRITISH LITERATURE : 18TH CENTURY

have passed away except his two sisters. After that he travels to Lisbon to enquire about his business affairs. The Portuguese captain apprises him that his plantations have been highly profitable and arranges to sell his Brazilian lands. After that Crusoe tries to return to England by land but faces unfavourable weather and wild animals in northern Spain. On reaching England, he knows that the sale of plantations has earned him quite a fortune. Crusoe again thinks of travel and decides to pacify his desire by returning to Brazil. He gets married, and has three children. However, his wife dies soon after. In 1694, he leaves for the East Indies as a trader in 1694 and revisits his island. The island is administered as a flourishing colony.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q. 1. What do you think were the most intense political preoccupations of 17th and 18th century England?

Ans. The 17th century was a time of great political and social turmoil in England, marked by civil war and regicide. The period saw division between the Whigs and the Tories. There were rivalries between Catholicism and Protestantism. The succession debate, fight between monarchy and parliament. James I ruled England from 1603 to 1625. King Charles I ruled from 1625 to 1642. It was followed by the English Civil War (1642-1651) and the English Interregnum (1651-1660), when there was no king. The English Civil War consisted of a series of armed conflicts and political machinations that took place between Parliamentarians and Royalists between 1642 and 1651. The first (1642–1646) and second (1648-1649) civil wars pitted the supporters of King Charles I against the supporters of the Long Parliament, while the third war (1649-1651) saw fighting between supporters of King Charles II and supporters of the Rump Parliament. The Civil War ended with the Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September, 1651. The Civil War led to the trial and execution of Charles I, the exile of his son Charles II, and the replacement of the English monarchy with first the Commonwealth of England (1649-1653) and then with a Protectorate (1653-1659), under the personal rule of Oliver Cromwell. Upon his death, his son took over, but proved a weak ruler with very little support. The military and religious elements that supported Cromwell began disputing with each other. After the death of Charles II, his brother, James,

took charge in 1685 and aggravated the already explosive political situation. James II, a Roman Catholic and an ally of England's political rival France, was seen by his opponents as a danger to the Church of England as well as to civil liberties during a time when the country had just come out of a civil war (1642-1651) that was fought to protect liberties. Towards the end of 1688, James II was displaced by his nephew and son-in-law, William of Orange, after a series of episodes called the 'Glorious Revolution.' After William III died, "Tories" became more powerful. The 18th century was characterised by numerous major wars, especially with France, with the growth and collapse of the First British Empire, with the origins of the Second British Empire, and with steady economic and social growth at home.

Q. 2. How do you think the historical circumstances of England impacted Daniel Defoe's writings?

Ans. Historical circumstances of England impacted Daniel Defoe's writings. For example, a year before Robinson Crusoe was published, Daniel Defoe responded to a number of important events in a manner that reveals a deepening of moral and ethical views. He never doubted the evils of Jacobitism or the benefits of the Whig succession, but as the government grew stronger after the suppression of the Jacobite rebellion in Scotland, he was not averse to making judgements about the government's positions or even opposing them on occasions. Although both John Toland and Abel Boyer seemed to find his position contradictory, Defoe felt there was little relationship between the situation that had produced The True-Born Englishman and that involving George I's attempt to reward foreigners. In Defoe's eyes, George I and the recipients of his favours bore no resemblance to William III and his heroic Dutch forces who had rescued England from James II. For the most part, however, his belief that in matters of economics and politics human beings were ruled entirely by self-interest had been reinforced by his experiences. Also, the change in the society of England, especially with the loosening up of the feudal order and the rise of middle classes influenced the Daniel Defoe's writings.

Q. 3. Do you think Daniel Defoe had to constantly negotiate with his circumstances because he was a dissenter from the Church of England?

Ans. Defoe found himself victimised and discriminated against owing to his religious affiliations. Being a minority made him susceptible to persecution