

Brief Question of "The Study of Poetry"

Writer: Matthew Arnold | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Brief Question of "The Study of Poetry".

- **Who is Matthew Arnold?**

Ans:

Matthew Arnold was an English poet and cultural critic.

- **What kind of writing is "The Study of Poetry"?**

Ans:

It is a critical essay.

- **What was the occasion of writing this essay?**

Ans:

Arnold wrote it as a general introduction to T.H. Ward's anthology English Poets.

- **Why does Arnold say "the future of poetry is immense"?**

Ans:

Poetry will give people spiritual comfort in future crises.

- **What is "illusion"?**

Ans:

Something that is not real but gives a false impression.

- **What is the difference between "idea" and "illusion"?**

Ans:

An Idea is a real thought in the mind. Illusion is unreal and false.

- **What is the basis of poetry?**

Ans:

The Idea is the basis of poetry.

- **What is the role of poetry in human life?**

Ans:

Poetry consoles and inspires people by interpreting life.

- **Where does the idea of poetry lie?**

Ans

: In hopes that they go beyond what we know.

- **How does Wordsworth define poetry?**

Ans:

“The breath and finer spirit of all knowledge.”

- **How will poetry console and sustain people?**

Ans:

By giving answers to life's spiritual questions.

- **Who was Sainte-Beuve?**

Ans:

A famous French critic and author (1802-1869).

- **How is poetry “the criticism of life”?**

Ans:

Poetry expresses ideas about life, becoming a judgment of it.

- **What does “poetic beauty” mean?**

Ans:

Excellence in style and expression.

1. **What is the best poetry according to Arnold?**

Ans:

Poetry that forms, sustains, and delights us.

- **Who is Homer?**

Ans:

Ancient Greek epic poet, author of The Iliad and The Odyssey.

- **What is a “touchstone”?**

Ans:

A stone used to test gold's purity.

- **What is the “touchstone” in literary criticism?**

Ans:

A standard to judge a literary work's greatness.

- **How can we apply the touchstone method?**

Ans:

Compare new poetry with great lines from past poets.

- **How is poetry greater than history?**

Ans:

Poetry expresses universal truths; history deals with facts only.

- **What is diction?**

Ans:

The writer's choice of words.

- **What is romance poetry?**

Ans:

Medieval love poetry from France, also called Troubadour poetry.

- **What is “chivalry”?**

Ans:

Knightly qualities like courage, honour, loyalty, and kindness.

- **What is Chaucer's attitude to life?**

Ans:

Large, free, simple, and kind-hearted.

- **How does Chaucer present human life?**

Ans:

With variety, showing both good and evil kindly.

- **Who was Gower?**

Ans:

A poet of Chaucer's time, author of *Confessio Amantis*.

- **When does a poet achieve "high seriousness"?**

Ans:

When treating a serious subject simply and intensely.

- **Who was Cowley?**

Ans:

A 17th-century metaphysical poet and essayist.

- **Who was Chapman?**

Ans:

Early Elizabethan poet, famous for translating Homer.

- **What is the difference between Pope's/Dryden's poetry and genuine poetry?**

Ans:

Genuine poetry comes from the soul; theirs came from wit.

- **What is Arnold's opinion about Robert Burns?**

Ans

: His Scottish poems are brilliant; his English poems are less great.

- **What does Arnold mean by "Poetry is a criticism of life"?**

Ans:

Poetry reflects and judges life's ideas.

- **Who are Arnold's ideal poets?**

Ans:

Homer, Dante, Shakespeare, and Milton.

- **What is the function of poetry?**

Ans:

To serve the needs of human life.

- **What is "historical estimate"?**

Ans:

Judging a work by its historical importance.

- **What is poetic truth?**

Ans:

Poetry's subject should match truth or nature.

- **What is the touchstone method in literary criticism?**

Ans:

Comparing new poets with truly great past poets.

- **What is the first great principle of criticism?**

Ans:

Disinterestedness—freedom from prejudice.

- **What does Arnold mean by "high seriousness"?**

Ans:

A grand style and serious treatment of the subject.

- **What does Arnold say about the future of poetry?**

Ans:

Poetry will always remain important in the world.

- **Define “charlatanism.”**

Ans:

Pretending to have knowledge without actually having it.

- **What is meant by “unconscious poetry”?**

Ans:

Human hope beyond what is known.

- **What is the Touchtone Method in poetry?**

Ans:

It is a way to judge the true quality of poetry.