

## Brief Questions Literature and Society

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### Brief Questions: Literature and Society

- **What responds comfortably to the undirected formula?**

**Ans:**

Certain major interests of the writer himself respond comfortably to the undirected formula.

- **What did the writer have no difficulty in?**

**Ans:**

He had no difficulty in deciding what suited him best to do.

- **What does Mr. Eliot's early prose emphasize?**

**Ans:**

It emphasizes not only individual talent but also external influences and conditions.

- **Who formulated the idea of Tradition?**

**Ans:**

T. S. Eliot formulated the idea of Tradition.

- **Where did the Augustan tradition originate?**

**Ans:**

It originated in the great changes of civilization in the late seventeenth century that emphasized social order and good form.

- **What was closely associated with the code of Good Form in the Augustan Age?**

**Ans:**

The essential modes and idioms of Augustan culture were closely linked with the code of Good Form.

- **What was the Queen Anne period confident of?**

**Ans:**

It was confident of its flourishing cultural health and refinement.

- **Whom does Leavis consider a genius in the late eighteenth century?**

**Ans:**

He considers William Blake a genius of that period.

- **What did Blake essentially do?**

**Ans:**

He reversed the shift of emphasis from the social to the individual.

- **What was the nature of Blake's reversal?**

**Ans:**

It was the movement of stress from the social to the personal or individual.

- **What did not make Blake self-sufficient?**

**Ans:**

The support of language and culture did not make him self-sufficient; he needed a deeper social support he lacked.

- **What was Bunyan's aim in The Pilgrim's Progress?**

**Ans:**

His aim was to preach his Puritan religious ideals.

- **What did Christian ask Faithful?**

**Ans:**

He asked Faithful whether he had heard any news about his neighbour Pliable.

- **What did Faithful answer?**

**Ans:**

He answered that Pliable had fallen into the Slough of Despond.

- **How did the Southern Appalachians acquire their culture?**

**Ans:**

Their culture, language, and manners were passed down through generations.

- **What does Bunyan himself show?**

**Ans:**

He shows how popular culture could merge with literary culture at a high artistic level.

- **How do Blake and Wordsworth differ?**

**Ans:**

Blake was interested in the people and their spirit, while Wordsworth focused on nature and the external world.

- **What happened after Wordsworth's death?**

**Ans**

: The Industrial Revolution destroyed traditional folk culture.

- **What can only trained familiarity with literature bring?**

**Ans:**

It brings sensitivity to language and insight into the link between abstract thought and real experience.

- **When will social and political thinking lose its power?**

**Ans:**

When it lacks the literary sensitivity to language and human experience.

- **What are the "other things" present in literary history and criticism?**

**Ans:**

They are social influences, environments, and extra-literary conditions affecting art.

- **What did the Romantic critical tradition stress?**

**Ans:**

It stressed inspiration and the power of individual genius.

- **How does the Marxist approach to literature appear?**

**Ans:**

It appears unprofitable to Leavis.

- **What is The Pilgrim's Progress?**

**Ans:**

It is the greatest work of John Bunyan and the most widely read book in English.

- **What should the poet be alert to?**

**Ans:**

He should realize that art never improves, though its material and the human mind evolve.

- **Who wrote The Pilgrim's Progress?**

**Ans:**

John Bunyan wrote The Pilgrim's Progress.

- **What did the Romantic poets emphasize, according to Leavis?**

**Ans:**

They emphasized inspiration and individual genius.

- **What was Eliot's early prose directed against?**

**Ans:**

It was directed against the Romantic tradition.

- **What does Leavis call the Romantic critical tradition?**

**Ans:**

He calls it an atmosphere of the unformulated and vague.

- **Whom does Leavis regard as a genius in the late eighteenth century?**

**Ans:**

He regards William Blake as a genius of that age.

- **What is Marxist literature?**

**Ans:**

Literature based on Karl Marx's economic theory is called Marxist literature.

- **Who was John Bunyan?**

**Ans:**

He was an English preacher and author of *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678).

- **Why does Leavis consider the phrase "The Romantic attitude" misleading?**

**Ans:**

Because it gives a vague and inaccurate idea of Romantic thought and criticism.

LX Notes