

Chapter 4: History of English Drama

OBJECTIVE TEST [PAGE 137]

Objective Test | Q 1 | Page 137

Name any four periods of History of British Drama.

SOLUTION

The periods of History of British Drama are as follows:

- a. The Medieval Period
- b. The Renaissance Period
- c. The Restoration Period
- d. The Victorian Period
- e. The Modern Period
- f. The Postmodern Era.

Objective Test | Q 2 | Page 137

List the four elements of drama.

SOLUTION

The elements of drama are plot, characters, characterization, dialogue, stage directions, conflict, and theme.

Objective Test | Q 3 | Page 137

State a type of drama each from any four periods of history.

SOLUTION

The periods of the history of British Drama are each well known for their characteristic plays. These are of the following types:

- a. Medieval Period: Didactic plays, Mystery plays, Miracle plays, Cycle plays, Morality plays.
- b. Renaissance Period: Tragic – Comedy, Melancholy, Revenge plays.
- c. Restoration Period: Heroic drama, Pathetic drama, Restoration drama, Restoration comedy.
- d. Victorian Period: All types of plays.
- e. Modern Period: Stream of consciousness, Absurd plays, Poetic drama, Radio drama.

- f. Post-Modern Era: Almost all types of dramas, Kitchen sink drama.

Objective Test | Q 4 | Page 137

Compare the features of a comedy and tragedy.

SOLUTION

Comedy and Tragedy differ from each other in the following ways:

		Comedy	Tragedy
a.	Theme	A Comedy deals with lighter themes like happiness, fun, laughter, etc.	A Tragedy deals with the darker themes of pain, death, etc.
b.	Response	A Comedy seeks to evoke laughter.	A Tragedy seeks to induce emotions of pity and fear in the audience.
c.	Plot	A Comedy relies on unusual circumstances and witty dialogues.	In a Tragedy, the main character usually has a moral flaw that causes the central tragic event.

Objective Test | Q 5 | Page 137

State the difference between poetry and drama.

SOLUTION

Drama is a medium of expression through performance based on a script. This script is written in the form of dialogues. On the other hand, poetry language is expressed in rhythm and metre.

Objective Test | Q 6 | Page 137

State the difference between drama and novel.

SOLUTION

Drama is a medium of expression through performance based on a script. While the script of a drama is written in the form of dialogues, a story or novel is written in a narrative form, i.e., in a manner that is similar to telling a story.

Objective Test | Q 7 | Page 137

Define drama.

SOLUTION

Drama is a creative work in verse or prose that aims to tell a story through action, costume, setting as well as dialogue and is typically performed in a theatre.

Objective Test | Q 8 | Page 137

Explain the term plot.

SOLUTION

The plot is the series of events that take place during the course of the play. It is like the plan or scheme of the play. It has a beginning, middle, and an end.

Objective Test | Q 9 | Page 137

Differentiate between characters and characterization.

SOLUTION

While the characters of a drama are the personalities that the actors must play, characterization refers to the understanding of the unique qualities of the actors and gaining insight into who they are, and establishing connections with them.

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Enlist a few reasons for watching a drama live on the stage.

SOLUTION

Some of the reasons for watching a drama live on stage are:

- a. **Each performance is unique:** Unlike watching a movie on the screen, each performance differs from the next, even when the same play is being performed. This is because the emotions of the actors, their gestures, dialogue delivery, etc. can never be exactly the same for every performance.
- b. **The audience is a part of the performance:** The reaction of the audience may directly influence the actors and as a result, they might change or modify their performance. Thus, the audience is a crucial part of each performance.
- c. **It is an experience in reality:** Unlike a movie screen, everything that happens on stage seems more real. Because the performance unfolds before our very eyes, there is a greater connection to the characters and story as compared to watching it on a screen.
- d. **Every aspect is visible:** In a live performance, the audience can choose to focus on whatever aspect of the drama that they like, no matter how minor. This is because the entire setting is visible to them at the same time, unlike a movie screen, in which the character or frame to be shown to the audience is predecided.