

# Novels, Society And History

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## Practice Questions

**Q. 1. Who wrote the first major historical novel in Assam? Name the novel.**

**Answer:** Rajanikanta Bardoloi wrote the first major historical novel in Assam. The name of the novel was Manomati (1900). The story is set in the Burmese invasion. It is a tale of two lovers belonging to two hostile families who are separated by the war and finally reunited.

**Q. 2. Name the novel about a secret Hindu militia that fights Muslims to establish a Hindu kingdom.**

**Answer:** Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Anandamath was a novel about a secret Hindu militia that fights Muslims to establish a Hindu kingdom. The novel inspired political movements and many freedom fighters.

**Q. 3. Explain what is meant by the following types of novels.**

1. Epistolary novel
2. Serialized novel

**For each type, name one writer who wrote in that style.**

**Answer:** Epistolary novels were written in the form of a series of letters. It used a private and personal form of letters to tell its story. Samuel Richardson wrote in this style.

Serialized novels followed a format in which the story was published in installments, each part in a new issue of a journal. Charles Dicken's Pickwick Papers written in 1836 was a serialized novel.

**Q. 4. How does Premchand depict the life of peasants in the novel Godan?**

**Answer:** Premchand in his Novel Godan described the story of a peasant couple who were oppressed and suppressed by Landlords, moneylenders, priests, and colonial bureaucrats. They robbed their land and made them into landless laborers. Yet the couple was able to retain their dignity to the end.

**Q. 5. What does the novel tell us about the life of peasants during the Great Depression?**

**Answer:** During the time of the Great Depression, the peasants and farmers suffered more than urban dwellers. The peasants were exploited by the powerful and elite members of the society- Landlords, moneylenders, priests, and colonial bureaucrats.

With the growth of Capitalists and industrialist class, the labor class was oppressed. Peasants were caught in a debt trap and this burden multiplied over time.

**Q. 6. Explain any five reasons for the popularity of novels in 18th century Europe.**

**Answer:** There were several reasons for the popularity of Novels in 18th century Europe:

- Novels created a world that was believable and seemed real.
- It absorbed the minds of people, by transporting the reader to another person's world so as to experience the life of the character in the novel.
- Novels gave individuals the pleasure of reading in private, as well as the joy of publicly reading or discussing stories with friends or relatives.
- Novels narrated stories about ordinary people. It did not focus on the lives of great people or actions that change the destinies of states and empires. Rather they were about the everyday life of common people.
- Novels created among readers a feeling of connection with the fate of rural communities.

**Q. 7. 'The novels played a significant role in creating awareness about issues relating to women in society'. What values were encouraged in novels brought by women? Take any one novel, to answer the question.**

**Answer:** Yes, the novels played a significant role in creating awareness about issues relating to women in society. Its implications can be studied by the following points:

**a)** In the 18th century the middle class became affluent so the women had more time to read and write novels. **b)** Novels began to explore the world of women, their emotions, identity, experience and problems. **c)** The domestic life became an important subject of novels. **d)** Women wrote about their experience, family life and earned recognition from the public. **e)** They also wrote about women who broke the traditional norms of the society before adjusting to them.

**f)** These kinds of stories allowed the women readers to be sympathetic towards their life.

**g)** For example, Jane Austen was an English novelist who wrote about the women in rural societies in the mid-19th century in Britain. She wrote about the dependence of women on marriage for economic security. **h)** At that time, women were encouraged to marry a wealthy man. **i)** Her famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice* depicts the male characters to be preoccupied with money and prosperity.

**Q. 8. What values and attitude were spread through the vernacular Press?**

**Answer:** The values and attitude that were spread through vernacular press are mentioned below:

**a)** The novels of different regional languages helped to spread the popularity of the novel. **b)** These novels were written in the language of the people and were easy to understand. **c)** It helped the growth of novels in new areas. **d)** It helped to bring people of different culture close to each other. **e)** This intern helped to developed a feeling of closeness among the people. **f)** Novels also draw from different style of languages. **g)** They were read individually as well as in groups.