

Subject - English

English Hons. Core Course

Paper - ENGH - H - CC - T - 9 (Semester-IV)

"Ode to a Nightingale"

Sample Questions and answers :

1) "Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,"
Explain the allusion contained in the sentence.

In this poem, "Ode to a Nightingale", the bird's identity melts into the melody which is timeless, a stasis of beauty and truth. The poet feels a longing to participate in the bird's life. He wants to achieve this state of ecstasy represented by the bird and to achieve this he wishes for a drink of wine. But the effect of vintage fails to unify the poet with the timeless melody of the bird for which the poet desires. He later dispenses with external stimulants like wine and relies on the potency of mind's inner resources, on his imagination. The poet rejects Bacchus and here the allusion is found. Bacchus is the god of wine, fertility and agriculture. So, the poet here alludes to Bacchus.

3) Why does the poet want to cease upon the midnight with no pain?

After a brief union with the bird, the poet has retreated into a dark thicket. He discerns the ~~the~~ animating principle in nature that includes and reconciles in its movement apparent contraries - life and death, growth and decay etc. The thought of acceptance of cyclic change now merges with the idea of death. The poet wishes to die an "easy death". Death is seen as a means of prolonging the moment of happiness. Earthly happiness is transient so to attain the ~~conson~~ state of ecstasy, one must leave this mortal world and this leads the poet to invoke death.

3) What different flowers does the poet mention in the stanza V of "Ode to a Nightingale"?

The poet feels ~~transport~~ transported into the forest. But it is dark and darkness is ~~em~~ filled with the fragrance of flowers. He cannot see the flowers as the place is dark. But the smell of flowers receives almost a visual vividness and the poet ~~says~~ ^{cites} a catalogue of flowers ~~from~~ like musk-rose, ~~hawthorne~~, hawthorn, eglantine, and violet.

4) "Forlorn! the very word is like a bell
To toll me back from thee to my sole-self!"
— What does these lines imply?

The word 'forlorn' means lonely or miserable.

The word rings an echo of the poet's personal reality and it produces the effect of a funeral bell. ~~The sound~~ ^{The} sound of the word breaks the spell ~~on~~ which brings him back from the company of the nightingale to his lonely self. The poet has ~~can~~ come back to this ~~poor~~ plane of painful reality which is full of misery and ^{suffering} ~~weariness~~.