VALLUVAR COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT, KARUR

POETRY FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

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TWO MARKS

UNIT- I

1. Why does a man in his life play many parts?

A man is fated to play many roles in his life. He takes birth only to play different roles.

1. Explain the first stage of human life?

Infancy is the first stage of human life. The child is taken care of by its mother or nurse. An infant cries & vomits in the arms of his mother or nurse. He is helpless and dependant.

1. Which stage of man is called second childishness?

The last stage as Shakespeare calls it is second childishness. During this age man lives in forgetfulness. He is without teeth, eyesight and taste.

1. Which road did the poet choose?

At first the poet decided to observe both roads. But one of the roads had the better claim because it was less travelled by the people. So, the poet choose the second road.

1. What is the message of the poem "Road Not Taken"?

In "Road Not Taken" the message of the poem is about life choices. The speaker is confronted with two roads. He tried to figure out which road to take. He finally chose the second road which resembles his poetic career.

UNIT - II

1. What is the tone in "Ode to the West Wind"?

The tone of "Ode to the West Wind" is a persistent one. The main idea of the poem is the speaker pleading the west wind to help him spread his idea to help and inspire others.

1. What does the poet want the west wind to do?

The poet desires that the West Wind should trumpet the poet's message of hope and optimism to the sleeping earth.

1. What qualities of the west wind are glorified in this ode?

Shelley glorifies the West Wind as, 'a wild spirit' and he praises the wind as a pleasant force on the shores of Mediterranean sea.

1. What are the characteristics of Keats' poetry?

The characteristics of Keats'poetry are; Worship of beauty, Richness of the literary expressions and the extraordinary freshness of his poetry.

1. What does the knight dream in his sleep?

When the Knight falls off to sleep in a fairy cave, he had a frightful dream. He saw some kings, princes and warriors who were looking dead pale. They warned the Knight about the beautiful lady.

UNIT - III

1. What does Ulysses think of the people of his Kingdom?

Ulysses thinks that the people of his Kingdom are savage and they only eat and sleep. And also they donot know Ulysses as he is always on adventurous wars and voyages.

1. What has Ulysses gained from his travel experience?

Ulysses, King of Ithaca was one of the Greek heroes who participated in the Trojan war. After trojan war he and his men wandered for another ten years adventure. He gained knowledge of various places, cultures, men and matters from his travel experience.

1. Who does Ulysses entrust his kingdom to, in his absence?

Ulysses entrusts his Kingdom to his son Telemachus. He thinks Telemachus has the qualities necessary for a good ruler namely patience and prudence.

1. Why was the Duke got angry with the Duchess?

The Duke of Ferrara was angry with the Duchess because she doesn't consider his nine hundred years old name as being anything special. Her behaviour made him angry.

1. What did the Duke show his Messenger at last? Why?

The Duke was pointing at the statue of Neptune taming the sea horse hints at his controlling anything under him, including the girl whom he is going to marry.

UNIT IV

1. Why does Yeats blame Helen?

The elopement of Helen with the Prince of Troy. Paris was one of the causes for the Trojan war.Yeats blame Helen's unkindness and thoughtlessness for the war.

1. What kind of beauty does the poet want for his daughter?

The poet, as a loving father wishes his daughter to grow up to be beautiful. But he doesn't want her to be beautiful like Helen or Maud Gonne.

1. What does Yeats say on custom and ceremony?

The poet stresses on custom and ceremony. It's ceremony that makes for prosperity and it is custom that gives shelter, says Yeats.

1. Who is the speaker in the Poem "Journey of the Magi"?

The poem is a Dramatic Monologue and on a surface level the speaker in this poem is one of the Magi who visited the infant Jesus shortly after his birth.

1. What do 'the pieces of silver' refer?

The pieces of silver refers to Judas' betrayal of Jesus Christ for thirty silver coins.

UNIT-V

1. What position did the unknown citizen take during the war and peace?

When there was peace he held the opinion that peace was good, when there was war he did not protest but enlisted himself as a soldier.

1. Who is a Eugenist? What was his report about the Unknown Citizen?

Eugenists are scientists who study the problems of population control. According to them the unknown citizen had the right number of five children.

1. Why did the peasants want the scorpion sit still?

The peasants believed that the poison in the mother's blood moved swiftly as the scorpion moved. It should sit still at one place to avoid any further spreading of its poison in the mother's body.

1. Why did the father put paraffin to the bitten toe?

The poet's father, a rational person tried everything available to bring relief to his wife. He tried to burn out the bitten spot to stop the flow of the poison into the blood.

1. Why did the mother thank God?

After the pain had subsided, the mother calmly thank God that the scorpion had stung only her and spared her children.

ESSAY

UNIT - I

**1. What according to Shakespeare are the differentstages in a man's life?**

**Introduction**

Shakespeare is the greatest playwright in English literature. He has written many plays,sonnets and poems.The poem "All the World's a Stage" is taken from hisromantic comedy As You Like It. The lines are spoken byone character .Jaques by name. Jaques is a character whophilosophies on everything he sees.Here Jaques compares the different stages in a man's life to acts/parts of a play. According to him, a man begins by being a baby in the first act of the play and ends as an old mae facing death in the last act.

**The World is a Stage:**

Shakespeare compares the world to a drama stage where there is an entrance and exit. Similar to the characters in a drama, we, all the men and women bornin the world is a stage in this world act our part for some time and exit. Birth is like a player's entrance and death his exitly play many roles, to be exact seven, according to theht dramatist. The seven different ages in a human life ar.different roles.

**The First stage:**

At first man is an infant. The child lisps for words and in doing so it makes many sounds including that of cat's crying sound. Often the infant vomits (which babiesoften do). Sòmeone is to attend the baby, either itsmother or nurse. It shows its dependency.

**Second stage**

At this stage, man is a school going boy. He hasa bright face in the morning. He carries a schoolbag butmovęs slowly like a snail, which shows his' unwillingness.

**Third stage**

The next role man plays is that of an unhappylover. He is always thoughtful of is mistress. He writesballads to seek her love., He sighs heavily like thebellowing of a furnace.

**Fourth stage**

In the fourth stage man turns into a responsible soldier. He swears strange oaths. He has a beard that makes his appearance look like a leopard. He is quick to fight and ready to risk his life, even by dying hit by gunfire. He wants to guard his good name at any cost.

**Fifth stage**

The fifth stage is the role of Justice. Here Shakespeare satirizes the lavish life of the magistrate. Ashe takes a lot of food and no exercise, he has a roundstomach which is filled with cock's meat. The justice has wise things to say to everyone.

**Sixth stage**

Man in the sixth stage or role is physically shrunk and wears loose trousers and slippers. This means thathe is not worried much about the clothes he wears. His spectacles stand on his nose and flush hangs loose on cheeks because of age. His voice, once gruff and manly has become shrill like that of a child. When he pronounces words, air escapes because his teeth are missing. In total he is a silly, foolish man.

**Seventh stage**

This is man's last stage. He becomes weak and. old. He behaves like a child. He has lost teeth, eyesight, taste and everything in his old age. The eventful history of man comes to an end. It is like a second childhood for him. He makes an exit (dies) like the actor leaving the stage.

**Conclusion**

Shakespeare, in the poem has given a sad but ironica! portrayal of human life. His analysis of man's life in seven stages is full of similies.

**UNIT - II**

**Trace the evolution of thought in the poem "Ode**

**to the West Wind".**

**Introduction**

Shelley is a romantic poet. "Ode to the WestWind" is one of his best poems. The poem is addressedto the West Wind. The poet calls the West Wind allpowerful on the earth. It has the great power of nature that destroys in order to create. The poet desires to be inspired by the West Wind to spread his prophetic message to mankind.

**West Wind a destroyer and preserver.**

The poet describes the movement of the West Wind the Destroyer and Preserver on the earth. He calls it -because, on the one hand, it destroys the leaves whichare old and dry, and, on the other, preserves in the ground the seeds that soon grow into trees. He calls the wild West Wind as "breath of Autumn's being". When theWest Wind blows, the dead leaves which have become yellow, black are like people afflicted with diseases. They are swiftly driven by the wind to far-off places. They fly like ghosts which run away on the appearance of the magician. destructive, it is kind to the seeds of the trees. These seeds are flown by the West Wind to safer places, where they are buried underground. Each of these/seeds lies in While its influence on the old leaves isin seven stages is full of similies. His description of the life,of man from his birth to death is quite appealing its cold grave for some months, when it is brought back to life by the beautiful sister of the West Wind.When the,Spring appears and the wind blows its trumpet over the earth, a new life appears in the shape of buds they spread themselves over the whole earth and with fine colours and smell. The West Wind is the Spirit which moves all over the earth.

**The powerful effect of the West Wind**

The poet describes the powerful effect of the West Wind in the sky. The West Wind breaks away the clouds like earth's decaying leaves from the boughs of Heaven. These clouds are spread on the waves of air like the bright hair flying in all directions when a Bacchanalian dancer dances wildly. The clouds are the angels which bring rain and lightning. The West Wind becomes a dirge (funeral song) which is being sung for the dying year. The night becomes a vast tomb where vapours have been built.like arches and will soon come down as rain and hail.

**The ocean disturbed by the West Wind**

The West Wind blows over the blue Mediterranean sea is described as a vast sleepy snake. The sea dreams of old civilization (palaces and towers) rich in flowers and vegetation. The sea sees "old palaces and toWers" in sleep, which shake when the West Wind blows. Both the Mediterranean and the Atlantic seas are affected by the West Wind. The gods of Atlantic fear the power of the West Wind and hide themselves in deep fissures. The vegetation under the sea trembles in fear at the force of the West Wind.

**West Wind - a personal force**

The West Wind now becomes a personal force. The poet says that if he were a dead leaf, a swift cloud, a wave, he could experience the West Wind's power and its strength. In his childhood, the poet had the power and strength and could probably out speed the West Wind. But now, the poet says, he no longer has the strength as he has been weakened by the problem, and burdens of life He says that he is bleeding as he has fallen on the thorns of life. The poet is now looking up to the West Wind, requesting its help.

**The poet's appeal to the West Wind**

The poet offers himself to the West Wind in the same way as the sky, the ocean and the forests do. He asks the West Wind to be the musician who can take out a deep autumnal tone from him (a lyre) and make harmonious music. The music thus produced may be sad but sweet. The poet then goes on to compare himself to unextinguished fire with ashes and sparks-meaning that the poet still has some power in him. He appeals to the West Wind to spread this power.

**The poet's optimistic outlook**

The poet ends with the hope that the West Wind will carry the poet's message over the entire world that is sleeping and be the trumpet of his prophecy. Winter is symbolic of despair, coldness and death; but Spring gives hope to new life, birth, beauty and colour. If there is despair now, hope is very close by, says the poet. There is hope and optimism at the close of the poem: "If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?".

**Conclusion**

The poem expresses Shelley's soaring spirit, lesiring to fly like the West Wind. It also reveals his wish hat like West Wind he wants to have control over the vorld of man possessing the spirit to change it.

**UNIT - III**

**Describe Ulysses's quest for knowledge.**

**Introduction**

Ulysses, King of Ithaca, was one of the Greek heroes who participated in the Trojan war which continue for ten years. Tennyson has portrayed in this poem traditional character of Ulysses in a new and romant manner. in Homer's Odyssey, Ulysses is celebrated for three great qualities of courage, wisdom and prudencOn the other hand Tennyson focusses his attention upon its central element-his love of action.

**Ulysses-a man of courage and adventure**

Ulysses has seen life in al its aspects. He had visited more countries of the world where he has bee honoured. He is familiar with the civilization and the government of several nations. He has tasted the thril.of adventure. To a man of action, life in the island o Ithaca proves disgusting. He finds that he has to rule people to whom his real greatness is not known. He feel it a thankless task "to mete and dole unequal laws into a savage race". He determines to leave the governmer of his kingdom to his blameless son Telemachus. He thinks Telemachus will discharge his duties as a ruler in his place. Having appointed him king, he will start his adventures once again.

**Ulysses's desire "to drink life to the lees"**

Ulysses has always been a man of action. He has Having experienced this delight, once more the desire for action, for more experience, possesses his soul. He realises that life piled on life would all be too little for the spurpose of knowing everything. Of the one life given io him, only a little remains. It will be very dull for him to waste life in unprofitable idleness. His spirit yearns to follow knowledge beyond the utmost boundary of hue thought: Neither love for his wife nor fondness for his can overcome him the passion fe has to explore the World. He is very eager to "drink life to the lees His character cannot allow him to rest content within theTherefore Ulysses wants to harrow limits of Ithaca. aundertake another voyage which will provide opportunities for more adventures.

**Ulysses's son Telemachus-a man of patience**

Ulysses thinks that if he leaves Ithaca there is his son Telemachus to look after the administration of the country. He says that his son Telemachus is a far better man to be the King of Ithaca than himself He has qualities such as patience and prudence which are needed for a good ruler, He is capable of working in slow stages ae systematic me ods to make the rugged people sub-dued and useful. He is blameless. He would discharge his kingly duties and spiritual duties in an exemplary manner. Ulysses reveals his love and affection for his son when he says "my son, mine own Telemachus". He is proud of his son.

**Ulysses's unyielding call to his mariners**

Ulysses collects his band of faithful mariners and says that they are men who have faced many adventures in all kinds of circumstances. Of course they are now old and are incapable of further similar adventures. But there are things which even old people can do. Then pointing! to the harbour, Ulysses, earnestly invites his men to join him in his last voyage. It is possible that they may drown. If it so happens, it is equally possible that they may reach the Happy Isles, where they will be able to meet the great Achilles whom they knew. Whatever may be the consequences, his aim is to be active and not be discouraged by difficulties.

**Conclusion**

The speech of Ulysses reveals his character. It shows his self confidence and love of adventure. At the same time he has no illusions about his present condition. He knows fully well that he is not the man he was. The speech reveals his philosophy. It is one of tireless striving and eternal quest

**UNIT- IV**

**Why does Yeats not desire to have his daughter grow up to be exceptionally beautiful? Explain.**

**Introduction**

A Prayer for My Daughter is a personal poem of W.B. Yeats. He wrote the poem in 1919, a few weeks after his daughter Anne was born. Much of the bitterness that is expressed in the poem is about Maud Gonne, a beautiful Irish woman. Yeats was hopelessly in love with her but she refused to marry him. In the poem, the poet also speaks as a father anxious for the well being of hisdaughter in a world torn by war and greed. The poem lists all the poet's prayers for his daughter.

**The storm that howls outside and inside**

In the opening stanza, Yeats talks about the stormhaving commenced howling outside, while inside he can see his child sleeping undisturbed in her cradle. Between his newly born daughter and the sea, there stand a bare hill and Gregory's woods. The poet is afraid that nothing could stop the storm from reaching the helpless infant. The father is naturally worried as he senses the gale striking the tower and the undersides of the bridges. To his mind, the storm is an ofen predicting the future of his daughter having arrived with a rage, mounting from the seeming innocence of the sea. As a father, the poet wishes beauty her daughter but not such voluptuousness that would captivate others to distraction or make her vain. A storm also rages within the soul of the poet.

**The poet's prayer for moderate beauty of his daughter**

The poet does not want his daughter to be without kindness. At the same time he does not want her to fal in choosing the persons with whom she will be friendly The father is afraid at the thought of her daughter's turning to be another Helen of Troy. The beautiful Helen who could not help being unfaithful as she was so beautiful. Her thoughtless, unkind act led to the Trojan war and long years of suffering. Similar was the case of Aphrodite. Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love rose from the sea and hence without a father to keep an eye. She married bow-legged Hephaestus, the on her. blacksmith of the gods. It is certain that extremely beautiful women are often known to act illogically, says the poet. It is strange how exquisitely beautiful women often choose 'a crazy salad' (an undeserving husband) to go 'with their meat' (rich food or their great beauty).

**The poet wishes his daughter to be like a laurel tree**

The poet desires that his daughter should realize that she should be deserving of winning human hearts. She should not be like those crafty women who employ their charms to use people to their advantage. It is true that men fall for stunning females but it is really the compassion of the women which thev admire for in the end. The father in the poet is ke en that her daughter should be like a tree giving fruits, sheltering birds and providing shade to people when she grows up. Her feelings should be like the sweet song of the linnet that spreads joy for the sake of doing so. Let her be like an everygreen tree; let her send her roots into the depth of her good convictions standing at the same place, prays the poet. dried up because the kind of minds he loved have not prospered. Here Yeats refers to Maud Gonne who rejected his love. He is also sure that the biggest of all evils is to be choked with hate. He prays that his daughter should be fee from this evil. The mind that is without hate cannot be harmed, says the poet. Such a mind is safe from all attack. The worst hatred is that of the mind which comes from being arrogant and 'intellectual hatred' is the worst of all hatreds. Hence the poet would like his

**Arrogance-the worst hatred of the mind**

daughter to have no strong opinions. Yeats refers again a According to Yeats, she has exchanged the Horn of plenty The poet, thereafter talks of his own mind having to Maud Gonne who, though blessed with good looks and wealth, has lost it all because of her obstinate self-will. for an ugly bellows that is full of angry wind.

**The poet's stress on ceremony and custom**

Towards the close of the poem, the poet stresses ceremony that makes for prosperity and it is custom that gives shelter, says the poet. Ceremony and tradition preserve spritual values and pass them on from generation. to generation. again on ceremony and custom. He wishes his daughter to marry a man who takes her to a house where custom and ceremony are observed. He hopes his daughter's bridegroom will value courtesy. Arrogance and hatred are goods sold in the streets, they are without value. It is

**Conclusion**

Yeats, graciousness in social behaviour belongs very largely to women. A society which allows arrogant, opinionated women to rule it; is a society that has lost its propriety.

**UNIT V**

**Why does the State regard the Unknown citizen as the ideal citizen? Explain.**

**Introduction**

"The Unknown Citizen' by W.H. Auden is a satiric poem of contemporary society. The poem describes an average citizen in a government controlled state. It draws our attention to the way a government keeps a record of all that a citizen does in his life time. The poem also describes the citizen whom the state considered ideal because he did not go against anybody.

**Government report of the unknown citizen**

Auden gives the account of the unknown citizen as given by the Bureau of Statistics. The government department collecting and filling information about individuals found the particular citizen to be one against whom there was no complaint. Reports from various offices showed that he was a 'saint' in the modern sense of the word: that is everything he did for the sake of the society also means government. He was working in a factory until his retirement except for a short break during the war, when he enlisted himself as a soldier. During his working in the Fudge Motors company, he satisfied his employers and was not dismissed from service. Though a Trade Union member, he did not partake in any protest or strike. His Trade Union reports showed that he had psubscription dues. The Trade Union to which he belonged to was in the good books of the government.

**The unknown citizen's personal variations**

The Public Opinion Department found out in its research that the citizen held opinions which were proper he opinion for the year. When there was peace he held that peace was good. When there was war he did not protest but enlisted himself as a soldier. The (unknown) citizen was married and added five children to the population which was considered the right number according to the experts on human reproduction. The teachers also gave a good opinion about him saying that.he did not interfere with the education of his children.

**The effect of mechanization**

The poem is witty conversational one in the centralization and mechanization of human life. The irony is specially pungent in the end where the Bureau feels it is foolish to ask whether the citizen was happy or not. In spite of his loyalty, patriotism, and social consciousness, the citizen was unknown to the Bureau, one among many.That is the effect of mechanization.

**Satire in the poem**

In the poem, Auden attacks the concept of a human being who is not much more than the product of all the economic, commercial and ideological pressure- groups. They force him to.conform to a standard pattern of life and thought. Modern mass-organisations such as the factory or The Trade Union, peace and war impose a uniformity on the individual. It is also strengthed by the press and the educational system. Any personal variations.are immediately sported by Social Psychology workers. Commerce, in its turn sells the average citizen his 'necessary' phonogarph, radio, car and frigidaire. Auden protests against a society which manipulates man by the laws of mass organisation, commercial exploitation, and a social research and spying system. Thus the mechanization kills individual freedom and happiness, says the poet, but in an indirect manner.

**Conclusion**

The government in the totalitarian state has bureaus to probe into the lives of the people. The government did not care to know whether the citizen was happy or not. The individual is not of any significance The state is supreme and it suppresses all there. individual freedom and desires. The poem is an attack on the totalitarian government and the contemporary society. An amiable person, curtailed off his individuality, identity and freedom is considered an ideal citizen by the state, says Auden.