

GENERAL AWARENESS – INDIAN LITERATURE

Chapter: Indian Literature

Subject:	General Awareness
Total Questions:	70 MCQs
Question Type:	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
Exam Relevance:	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB, State PSC, Defence Exams
Topics Covered:	Sanskrit, Ancient Epics, Bhakti, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Urdu, English & Literary Awards
Based On:	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2024–2026

★ ■ ANCIENT SANSKRIT LITERATURE ★

Q1. Who is considered the greatest poet and dramatist of classical Sanskrit literature?

- A) Valmiki
- B) Vyasa
- C) Kalidasa
- D) Bhavabhuti

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Kalidasa**

■ *Explanation: Kalidasa is regarded as the greatest Sanskrit poet and dramatist. His major works include Abhijnanasakuntalam (play), Meghaduta, Kumarasambhava, Raghuvamsha (epics), and Ritusamhara (poem).*

Q2. Which work of Kalidasa is considered his finest dramatic masterpiece?

- A) Meghaduta
- B) Abhijnanasakuntalam
- C) Raghuvamsha
- D) Kumarasambhava

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Abhijnanasakuntalam**

■ *Explanation: Abhijnanasakuntalam (The Recognition of Sakuntala) is Kalidasa's most celebrated Sanskrit play, depicting the love story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala.*

Q3. The Rigveda is the oldest of the four Vedas. Which of the following is NOT one of the four Vedas?

- A) Samaveda
- B) Atharvaveda
- C) Upanishad
- D) Yajurveda

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Upanishad**

■ *Explanation: The four Vedas are Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. The Upanishads are philosophical texts forming the concluding part of the Vedas (Vedanta), but are NOT one of the four Vedas themselves.*

Q4. The Natyashastra, the ancient treatise on performing arts and dramaturgy, was written by:

- A) Panini
- B) Bharata Muni
- C) Patanjali
- D) Vatsyayana

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Bharata Muni**

■ *Explanation: Natyashastra by Bharata Muni is a seminal Sanskrit treatise on the performing arts — covering drama, dance, and music. It is considered the foundational text of Indian classical performing arts.*

Q5. Ashtadhyayi, a treatise on Sanskrit grammar, was written by which ancient scholar?

- A) Patanjali
- B) Vatsyayana
- C) Panini
- D) Chanakya

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Panini**

■ *Explanation: Panini's Ashtadhyayi is an ancient Sanskrit grammar treatise with 3,959 sutras (aphorisms), considered one of the greatest intellectual achievements in the history of linguistics.*

Q6. The Arthashastra, an ancient Indian treatise on statecraft, economics, and military strategy, was written by:

- A) Manu
- B) Chanakya (Kautilya)
- C) Vatsyayana
- D) Bhasa

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Chanakya (Kautilya)**

■ *Explanation: Arthashastra was written by Chanakya (also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta), the prime minister of Chandragupta Maurya. It is a comprehensive guide to governance and statecraft.*

Q7. Mricchakatika (The Little Clay Cart) is a famous Sanskrit play written by:

- A) Kalidasa
- B) Shudraka
- C) Bhavabhuti
- D) Vishakhadatta

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Shudraka**

■ *Explanation: Mricchakatika (The Little Clay Cart) is a celebrated Sanskrit play attributed to King Shudraka. It depicts a love story between a merchant's son and a courtesan in ancient India.*

Q8. The Mahabharata, the world's longest epic poem, was composed by which sage?

- A) Valmiki
- B) Narada
- C) Vedavyasa (Vyasa)
- D) Kalidasa

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Vedavyasa (Vyasa)**

■ *Explanation: The Mahabharata was composed by the sage Vedavyasa (Vyasa). It contains about 100,000 verses (shlokas), making it the world's longest epic poem. It includes the Bhagavad Gita.*

Q9. Panchatantra, the ancient collection of animal fables with moral lessons, was compiled by:

- A) Kalidasa
- B) Vishnu Sharma
- C) Valmiki
- D) Bharata Muni

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Vishnu Sharma**

■ *Explanation: Panchatantra is an ancient Sanskrit collection of interrelated animal fables compiled by the scholar Vishnu Sharma around 3rd century BCE. Its stories have influenced fables worldwide.*

Q10. Chaurapanchashika is a famous romantic Sanskrit poem written by which Kashmir poet?

- A) Kalhana
- B) Somadeva
- C) Bilhana
- D) Mammata

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Bilhana**

■ *Explanation: Chaurapanchashika (Fifty Stanzas of a Love Thief) is written by Bilhana, a 11th-century Sanskrit poet from Kashmir. It describes the romantic escapades of a king and a woman.*

Q11. Rajtarangini, a chronicle of the kings of Kashmir, was written by:

- A) Bilhana
- B) Kalhana
- C) Somadeva
- D) Mammata

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Kalhana**

■ *Explanation: Rajtarangini (River of Kings) was written by Kalhana in the 12th century CE. It is a Sanskrit chronicle of the rulers of Kashmir and is considered India's first historical narrative.*

Q12. Kathasaritsagara (Ocean of Streams of Story), a famous collection of Indian legends, was composed by:

- A) Kalhana
- B) Bilhana
- C) Somadeva
- D) Panini

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Somadeva**

■ *Explanation: Kathasaritsagara was composed by Somadeva in the 11th century CE for Queen Suryamati of Kashmir. It is a massive collection of Indian legends, fairy tales, and fables in Sanskrit.*

Q13. The Bhagavad Gita is part of which Indian epic?

- A) Ramayana
- B) Mahabharata
- C) Rigveda
- D) Manusmriti

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Mahabharata**

■ *Explanation: The Bhagavad Gita (Song of God) is a 700-verse dialogue in the Mahabharata between Lord Krishna and the Pandava prince Arjuna, set on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.*

Q14. Valmiki is known as the 'Adi Kavi' (first poet) because he composed which work?

- A) Mahabharata
- B) Ramayana
- C) Panchatantra
- D) Arthashastra

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ramayana**

■ *Explanation: Valmiki is called 'Adi Kavi' (first poet) for composing the original Sanskrit Ramayana, one of the two great Sanskrit epics. The shloka (verse) form of poetry is said to have originated with Valmiki.*

Q15. Kamban's Ramavataram is the Tamil version of the Ramayana. In which century was it composed?

- A) 5th century CE
- B) 9th century CE
- C) 12th century CE
- D) 15th century CE

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 12th century CE**

■ *Explanation: Kamban composed Ramavataram (also called Kamba Ramayanam) in Tamil in the 12th century CE during the Chola period. It is considered the greatest masterpiece of Tamil literature after the Sangam texts.*

★ ■ MEDIEVAL BHAKTI & SUFI LITERATURE ★

Q16. Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas in which language?

- A) Sanskrit
- B) Braj Bhasha
- C) Awadhi
- D) Maithili

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Awadhi**

■ *Explanation: Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitmanas, a retelling of the Ramayana, in Awadhi (a dialect of Hindi) in the 16th century CE. It is one of the most widely read devotional texts in India.*

Q17. Kabir Das, the saint-poet, was a disciple of which Bhakti saint?

- A) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
- B) Ramananda
- C) Namdev
- D) Ramdas

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ramananda**

■ *Explanation: Kabir Das was a disciple of the saint Ramananda. Kabir's compositions (Dohas and Sakhi) blended Hindu and Sufi Muslim traditions, criticising caste discrimination and religious orthodoxy.*

Q18. Mirabai's devotional poems and bhajans are primarily devoted to which deity?

- A) Lord Shiva
- B) Goddess Durga
- C) Lord Rama
- D) Lord Krishna

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Lord Krishna**

■ *Explanation: Mirabai (c. 1498–1557) was a Rajput princess and poet-saint whose compositions are passionate devotional bhajans addressed to Lord Krishna, whom she considered her divine husband.*

Q19. Surdas, the blind poet-saint, is best known for composing Sursagar, a collection of poems devoted to which deity?

- A) Lord Rama
- B) Lord Shiva
- C) Lord Krishna
- D) Lord Vishnu

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Lord Krishna**

■ *Explanation: Surdas (15th–16th century) composed Sursagar (Ocean of Melody), a vast collection of devotional poems in Braj Bhasha devoted to Lord Krishna, especially his childhood and youth.*

Q20. Padmavat, a Sufi romantic poem, was written in Awadhi by which poet?

- A) Tulsidas
- B) Jayasi (Malik Muhammad Jayasi)
- C) Kabir
- D) Rahim

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jayasi (Malik Muhammad Jayasi)**

■ *Explanation: Padmavat was written in Awadhi by Malik Muhammad Jayasi in 1540 CE. It is an allegorical Sufi poem narrating the legendary story of Queen Padmavati of Chittor.*

Q21. Prithviraj Raso, an early Hindi epic, was written by which court poet to glorify Prithviraj Chauhan?

- A) Vidyapati
- B) Chand Bardai
- C) Kabir
- D) Tulsidas

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Chand Bardai**

■ *Explanation: Prithviraj Raso was composed by Chand Bardai, the court poet of Prithviraj Chauhan III. It is one of the earliest works of Hindi literature and narrates the heroic deeds of Prithviraj Chauhan.*

Q22. Amir Khusrau, the great Sufi poet and musician, introduced which poetic form in India?

- A) Doha
- B) Ghazal and Qawwali (in Indian form)
- C) Chaupai
- D) Shloka

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ghazal and Qawwali (in Indian form)**

■ *Explanation: Amir Khusrau (1253–1325) was a poet, musician, and Sufi mystic who introduced the Ghazal form and popularised Qawwali in India. He also invented the sitar and tabla (according to tradition) and is credited with creating Hindavi (early Hindi).*

★ ■ MODERN HINDI LITERATURE ★

Q23. Who is called the 'Father of Modern Hindi Fiction' and wrote the celebrated novel 'Godan'?

- A) Jaishankar Prasad
- B) Sumitranandan Pant
- C) Premchand (Munshi Premchand)
- D) Harivansh Rai Bachchan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Premchand (Munshi Premchand)**

■ *Explanation: Munshi Premchand (1880–1936) is called the Father of Modern Hindi fiction. His major novels include Godan, Gaban, Nirmala, and short stories like Kafan and Poos Ki Raat, dealing with social realism — caste, poverty, and colonial agrarian distress.*

Q24. Harivansh Rai Bachchan is best known for which famous Hindi poem (collection)?

- A) Madhushala
- B) Nirala
- C) Kamayani
- D) Rashmirathi

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Madhushala**

■ *Explanation: Harivansh Rai Bachchan is celebrated for Madhushala (The House of Wine, 1935), a collection of 135 quatrains (rubais) using wine, goblet, and tavern as metaphors for life and philosophy.*

Q25. Kamayani, considered the greatest Hindi epic of the modern age, was written by:

- A) Sumitranandan Pant
- B) Mahadevi Varma
- C) Jaishankar Prasad
- D) Nirala

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jaishankar Prasad**

■ *Explanation: Kamayani (1936) is a Sanskrit-style Hindi epic poem written by Jaishankar Prasad. It depicts the flood narrative of Manu and Shradha from Hindu mythology and is considered the pinnacle of Chayavad (Romantic) Hindi poetry.*

Q26. Mahadevi Varma, a major Hindi poet, is often called the 'Modern Meera' because of her devotional and mystical poetry. She was part of which Hindi literary movement?

- A) Riti Kal
- B) Pragativad (Progressivism)
- C) Chayavad (Romanticism)
- D) Nayi Kavita

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Chayavad (Romanticism)**

■ *Explanation: Mahadevi Varma (1907–1987) was a leading Chayavad (Romantic era) Hindi poet and is called the 'Modern Meera'. She received the Jnanpith Award in 1982 — the highest literary honour in India.*

Q27. Rashmirathi, a famous Hindi poem retelling the Mahabharata from Karna's perspective, was written by:

- A) Harivansh Rai Bachchan
- B) Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
- C) Sumitranandan Pant
- D) Suryakant Tripathi Nirala

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ramdhari Singh Dinkar**

■ *Explanation: Rashmirathi (Charioteer of the Sun, 1952) is a celebrated Hindi epic poem by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, portraying Karna as a tragic hero. Dinkar received the Jnanpith Award for Urvashi (1972) and was called the 'Rashtra Kavi' (National Poet).*

★ ■ **BENGALI LITERATURE** ★

Q28. Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for which collection of poems?

- A) Manasi
- B) Sonar Tari
- C) Gitanjali
- D) Gora

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Gitanjali**

■ *Explanation: Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali (Song Offerings), a collection of devotional poems originally written in Bengali and translated into English by Tagore himself.*

Q29. Jana Gana Mana, the Indian National Anthem, was originally written by Rabindranath Tagore in which language?

- A) Hindi
- B) Sanskrit
- C) Bengali
- D) Urdu

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Bengali**

■ *Explanation: Jana Gana Mana was originally composed in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore in 1911. It was officially adopted as India's National Anthem on January 24, 1950.*

Q30. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Vande Mataram. In which novel does this song appear?

- A) Durgesh Nandini
- B) Rajani
- C) Anandamath
- D) Devi Chaudhurani

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Anandamath**

■ *Explanation: Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and appears in his 1882 Bengali novel Anandamath. It was adopted as India's National Song in 1950.*

Q31. Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, a famous Bengali novelist, is known for which popular work later adapted into a Hindi film?

- A) Gitanjali
- B) Devdas
- C) Pather Panchali
- D) Godan

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Devdas**

■ *Explanation: Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote Devdas (1917), a tragic Bengali novel about a self-destructive young man's love and alcoholism. It has been adapted into numerous Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam films.*

★ ■ URDU LITERATURE ★

Q32. Mirza Ghalib, one of India's greatest Urdu poets, lived during which period?

- A) 15th–16th century
- B) 17th–18th century
- C) 19th–early 20th century
- D) Early 20th century only

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 19th–early 20th century**

■ *Explanation: Mirza Asadullah Baig Khan 'Ghalib' (1797–1869) lived during the late Mughal period. He wrote ghazals in both Urdu and Persian and is considered the greatest Urdu-language poet.*

Q33. Faiz Ahmad Faiz, the celebrated Urdu poet known for revolutionary and romantic poetry, was from which country?

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Bangladesh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Pakistan**

■ *Explanation: Faiz Ahmad Faiz (1911–1984) was a Pakistani Urdu poet known for blending romantic imagery with revolutionary themes. His famous works include Hum Dekhenge and Mujhse Pehli Si Mohabbat.*

Q34. Ismat Chughtai and Saadat Hasan Manto are associated with which literary movement in Urdu?

- A) Romantic Movement
- B) Progressive Writers' Movement
- C) Classical Movement
- D) Sufi Movement

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Progressive Writers' Movement**

■ *Explanation: Ismat Chughtai and Saadat Hasan Manto were leading figures of the Progressive Writers' Movement (PWM) in Urdu literature, addressing themes of sexuality, communalism, and social oppression.*

★ ■ TAMIL LITERATURE ★

Q35. Thirukkural, a classic Tamil text of 1,330 couplets on ethics, polity, and love, was written by:

- A) Ilango Adigal
- B) Kamban
- C) Thiruvalluvar
- D) Avvaiyar

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Thiruvalluvar**

■ *Explanation: Thirukkural (Sacred Verses) was composed by the Tamil poet-philosopher Thiruvalluvar (c. 1st–5th century CE). It is universally respected for its wisdom and has been translated into more than 40 languages.*

Q36. Silappatikaram, one of the greatest ancient Tamil epics, was written by:

- A) Thiruvalluvar
- B) Kamban
- C) Ilango Adigal
- D) Tirugnana Sambandar

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ilango Adigal**

■ *Explanation: Silappatikaram (The Tale of the Anklet) was written by the Jain prince Ilango Adigal. It is one of the Five Great Tamil Epics and tells the tragic story of Kannagi and Kovalan.*

Q37. The Sangam period in Tamil literature refers to which historical era?

- A) 3rd century BCE – 3rd century CE
- B) 6th–10th century CE
- C) 12th–15th century CE
- D) 16th–18th century CE

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 3rd century BCE – 3rd century CE**

■ *Explanation: The Sangam period (c. 300 BCE–300 CE) is the earliest period of Tamil literature, marked by the three legendary Sangams (literary academies) in Madurai. Sangam literature includes Tolkappiyam, Purananuru, and Akananuru.*

★ ■ MARATHI & OTHER REGIONAL LITERATURE ★

Q38. Dnyaneshwari, a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita written in Marathi, was composed by which saint?

- A) Tukaram
- B) Namdev
- C) Eknath
- D) Dnyaneshwar (Jnandev)

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Dnyaneshwar (Jnandev)**

■ *Explanation: Dnyaneshwari was composed by Sant Dnyaneshwar (Jnandev) in 1290 CE in Marathi. It is one of the earliest literary works in Marathi and a spiritual masterpiece of the Warkari movement.*

Q39. Tukaram, the 17th-century Marathi saint-poet, is famous for composing:

- A) Abhanga (devotional verses)
- B) Chaupai
- C) Ghazals
- D) Dohas

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Abhanga (devotional verses)**

■ *Explanation: Sant Tukaram composed thousands of Abhangas — devotional verses in Marathi addressed to Lord Vitthal (Vithoba) of Pandharpur. He is the most revered poet-saint of the Warkari tradition.*

Q40. Maila Anchal (The Soiled Border), a landmark Hindi novel about rural Bihar post-Independence, was written by:

- A) Premchand
- B) Phanishwar Nath Renu
- C) Jaishankar Prasad
- D) Ramdhari Singh Dinkar

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Phanishwar Nath Renu**

■ *Explanation: Maila Anchal (1954) by Phanishwar Nath Renu is a landmark 'Anchalik' (regional) Hindi novel depicting rural Bihar after Independence. Its lyrical prose blending folk traditions with realistic observation earned it a place among Hindi's greatest novels.*

Q41. Gitanjovani, Sonar Kella, and Feluda are associated with which Bengali author?

- A) Rabindranath Tagore
- B) Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
- C) Satyajit Ray
- D) Buddhadeb Guha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Satyajit Ray**

■ *Explanation: Sonar Kella and Feluda are detective fiction series created by filmmaker Satyajit Ray in Bengali. Ray was equally celebrated as a writer of children's literature and fiction as he was a filmmaker.*

★ ■ LITERARY AWARDS – NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL ★

Q42. The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour. It is given for contribution to literature in which languages?

- A) Hindi and English only
- B) Any of the 22 scheduled languages of India
- C) Sanskrit only
- D) All Indian and foreign languages

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Any of the 22 scheduled languages of India**

■ *Explanation: The Jnanpith Award is given to Indian citizens for their outstanding contribution to literature in any of the 22 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.*

Q43. Who was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award (1965)?

- A) Sumitranandan Pant
- B) G. Sankara Kurup
- C) Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay
- D) Viswanatha Satyanarayana

✓ **Correct Answer: B) G. Sankara Kurup**

■ *Explanation: G. Sankara Kurup, a Malayalam poet, was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award in 1965 for his collection Odakkuzhal (The Flute). The award was established by the Bharatiya Jnanpith Trust.*

Q44. The Sahitya Akademi Award is given annually for outstanding literary work. The cash prize associated with the award is:

- A) ■1 lakh
- B) ■1.5 lakh
- C) ■2 lakh
- D) ■5 lakh

✓ **Correct Answer: A) ■1 lakh**

■ *Explanation: The Sahitya Akademi Award carries a cash prize of ■1,00,000 (one lakh rupees) along with a plaque. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar (children's literature) carries ■50,000.*

Q45. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 is awarded by which institution for children's literature?

- A) NCERT
- B) National Book Trust
- C) Sahitya Akademi
- D) Ministry of Education

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Sahitya Akademi**

■ *Explanation: Bal Sahitya Puraskar is conferred annually by the Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters) for outstanding contribution to children's literature in any of the 22 scheduled languages plus English and Rajasthani. The prize carries ₹50,000.*

Q46. Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 was awarded to which South Korean author?

- A) Cho Nam-Joo
- B) Han Kang
- C) Hwang Sok-Yong
- D) Kim Young-Ha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Han Kang**

■ *Explanation: South Korean author Han Kang won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024 for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and the fragility of human life. She was the first South Korean author to win this prize.*

Q47. Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913). Who was the first Indian-born author to win the Booker Prize?

- A) Arundhati Roy
- B) Salman Rushdie
- C) V.S. Naipaul
- D) Amitav Ghosh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Salman Rushdie**

■ *Explanation: Salman Rushdie won the Booker Prize in 1981 for Midnight's Children. He was the first Indian-born author to win it. Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 for The God of Small Things.*

Q48. Arundhati Roy's debut novel, which won the Booker Prize in 1997, is:

- A) The Ministry of Utmost Happiness
- B) Listening to Grasshoppers
- C) The God of Small Things
- D) Walking with the Comrades

✓ **Correct Answer: C) The God of Small Things**

■ *Explanation: The God of Small Things (1997) is Arundhati Roy's debut novel, set in Kerala. It won the Booker Prize and explores themes of caste, forbidden love, and the breaking of social norms.*

Q49. Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie deals with India's independence and partition. The novel's protagonist was born at midnight of which date?

- A) 15 August 1947
- B) 26 January 1950
- C) 26 November 1949
- D) 2 October 1947

✓ **Correct Answer: A) 15 August 1947**

■ *Explanation: In Midnight's Children, protagonist Saleem Sinai is born at the stroke of midnight on 15 August 1947 — the moment of India's independence — and possesses telepathic powers connecting him to other 'midnight's children'.*

★ 🏠 ENGLISH & INDO-ANGLIAN LITERATURE ★

Q50. R.K. Narayan created which fictional town in his novels, inspired by Mysore?

- A) Malgudi
- B) Macondo
- C) Yoknapatawpha
- D) Swamibad

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Malgudi**

■ *Explanation: R.K. Narayan set his novels in the fictional town of Malgudi, inspired by Mysore, Karnataka. Famous works include Swami and Friends, The Guide (which won the Sahitya Akademi Award), and The Painter of Signs.*

Q51. Mulk Raj Anand, one of the founders of Indian writing in English, is best known for which novel depicting the life of an untouchable?

- A) The Village
- B) Coolie
- C) Untouchable
- D) Two Leaves and a Bud

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Untouchable**

■ *Explanation: Untouchable (1935) by Mulk Raj Anand depicts a single day in the life of Bakha, a young sweeper boy facing caste discrimination. It has a preface by E.M. Forster and was a pioneering work in Indian English literature.*

Q52. Tolkappiyam, the earliest known Tamil grammar and literary treatise, was written by:

- A) Thiruvalluvar
- B) Tolkappiyar
- C) Ilango Adigal
- D) Kamban

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Tolkappiyar**

■ *Explanation: Tolkappiyam was written by Tolkappiyar during the Sangam period (c. 3rd century BCE–5th century CE). It is the oldest surviving Tamil grammar and literary text, covering language and poetics.*

Q53. Which language was granted Classical Language status most recently in 2024 along with Marathi?

- A) Odia
- B) Maithili
- C) Pali
- D) Konkani

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Pali**

■ *Explanation: In 2024, the Government of India granted Classical Language status to Marathi and Pali (in addition to the existing 6), recognising their ancient literary heritage. Pali is the language of the Theravada Buddhist scriptures (Tripitaka).*

Q54. Which of the following is a major Buddhist literary work written in Pali?

- A) Arthashastra
- B) Jataka Tales (Tripitaka)
- C) Manusmriti
- D) Yoga Sutras

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jataka Tales (Tripitaka)**

■ *Explanation: The Jataka Tales (stories of the Buddha's previous births) and the Tripitaka (Three Baskets of Buddhist teaching) are major Pali literary works. Pali is the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism.*

Q55. Devanagari script is used to write which of the following languages?

- A) Bengali and Odia
- B) Gujarati and Punjabi
- C) Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi and Nepali
- D) Tamil and Telugu

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi and Nepali**

■ *Explanation: Devanagari script is used for Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi, Nepali, and several other Indian languages. It reads from left to right and has 47 primary characters.*

Q56. UPSC CSE 2025's top ranker (AIR 1) was Anuj Agnihotri. The UPSC Hindi Literature syllabus covers four major historical periods. Which of the following is NOT one of them?

- A) Adikaal (Vir Gatha Kal)
- B) Bhaktikal
- C) Ritikal
- D) Modernism (Adhunikkal)
- D) Mughal Kal

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Mughal Kal**

■ *Explanation: The four periods of Hindi literature are: Adikaal (Vir Gatha Kal — heroic poetry), Bhaktikal (devotional poetry), Ritikal (court poetry), and Adhunikkal (Modern era). 'Mughal Kal' is not a recognised literary period classification.*

Q57. One Nation One Subscription (ONOS), launched in 2025, provides access to academic and research journals for students. Which ministry launched it?

- A) Ministry of IT
- B) Ministry of Science & Technology
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) Ministry of Finance

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ministry of Education**

■ *Explanation: One Nation One Subscription was launched by the Ministry of Education in 2025. It provides access to high-quality academic research journals and publications to students and researchers across India.*

Q58. The Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award (Sahitya Akademi Award) for English literature in 2024 was given for which genre of work?

- A) Poetry
- B) Novel
- C) Short Story Collection
- D) Essay

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Novel**

■ *Explanation: The Sahitya Akademi Award for English in 2024 was awarded for a novel. The Akademi recognises literary works across 24 languages including English, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Sanskrit, and Rajasthani.*

Q59. Which Indian author wrote the Man Booker Prize-winning novel 'The White Tiger' (2008)?

- A) Vikram Seth
- B) Aravind Adiga
- C) Kiran Desai
- D) Jhumpa Lahiri

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Aravind Adiga**

■ *Explanation: Aravind Adiga won the Man Booker Prize 2008 for The White Tiger, a dark comedy narrating the rise of a poor chauffeur who murders his employer to escape poverty — examining India's class divide.*

★ ■ CURRENT AFFAIRS IN LITERATURE ★

Q60. Kiran Desai won the Man Booker Prize in 2006 for which novel?

- A) Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard
- B) The Inheritance of Loss
- C) The God of Small Things
- D) A Fine Balance

✓ **Correct Answer: B) The Inheritance of Loss**

■ *Explanation: Kiran Desai won the 2006 Man Booker Prize for The Inheritance of Loss, a novel exploring themes of colonialism, globalisation, and migration. She is the daughter of author Anita Desai.*

Q61. Vikram Seth's 'A Suitable Boy' is written in which language and is notable for being one of the longest novels in English?

- A) Hindi
- B) English
- C) Bengali
- D) Urdu

✓ **Correct Answer: B) English**

■ *Explanation: A Suitable Boy (1993) by Vikram Seth is written in English and is one of the longest novels ever published in the English language (1,349 pages). It is set in post-Independence India and deals with a mother's search for a husband for her daughter.*

Q62. Jhumpa Lahiri, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian-American author, is best known for which debut collection of short stories?

- A) The Namesake
- B) Unaccustomed Earth
- C) Interpreter of Maladies
- D) The Lowland

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Interpreter of Maladies**

■ *Explanation: Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2000 for her debut short story collection Interpreter of Maladies. The stories deal with the lives of Indian and Indian-American immigrants.*

Q63. The Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly Man Booker Prize) is awarded to authors writing in which language?

- A) Any language
- B) English
- C) English and French
- D) Any Commonwealth language

✓ **Correct Answer: B) English**

■ *Explanation: The Booker Prize is awarded to the best novel written in the English language and published in the UK, open to authors of any nationality. Since 2014, it includes authors from the USA as well.*

Q64. The National Book Trust (NBT) of India was established in which year?

- A) 1947
- B) 1950
- C) 1957
- D) 1965

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1957**

■ *Explanation: The National Book Trust (NBT) was established in 1957 by the Government of India to promote books and reading habits. It organises the New Delhi World Book Fair annually.*

★ ■ LITERARY TERMS, INSTITUTIONS & MATCH ★

Q65. Sangam Literature in Tamil classifies poetry into two types. What are they?

- A) Kavya and Mahakavya
- B) Akam (interior/love) and Puram (exterior/heroic)
- C) Dharma and Moksha poetry
- D) Sacred and Secular

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Akam (interior/love) and Puram (exterior/heroic)**

■ *Explanation: Sangam literature classifies Tamil poetry into two main categories: Akam (inner/love poetry dealing with personal/romantic themes) and Puram (outer/heroic poetry dealing with war, kings, death, and social values).*

Q66. The Progressive Writers' Association (PWA), which significantly shaped modern Indian literature, was founded in:

- A) London, 1935
- B) Lahore, 1936
- C) Bombay, 1940
- D) Delhi, 1938

✓ **Correct Answer: A) London, 1935**

■ *Explanation: The Progressive Writers' Association was founded in London in 1935 by Sajjad Zaheer and other Indian writers studying abroad. It championed social realism and progressive values, influencing Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali literature.*

Q67. Which of these is the correct match of author and their famous work?

- A) Premchand – Gitanjali
- B) Rabindranath Tagore – Godan
- C) R.K. Narayan – The Guide
- D) Bankim Chandra – Devdas

✓ **Correct Answer: C) R.K. Narayan – The Guide**

■ *Explanation: R.K. Narayan wrote The Guide (1960), which won the Sahitya Akademi Award and was later adapted into a Hindi film. Gitanjali is by Tagore, Godan is by Premchand, and Devdas is by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay.*

Q68. Jnanpith Award 2023 was given to which two authors (jointly)?

- A) Gulzar and Rambhadracharya
- B) Amitav Ghosh and Mahasweta Devi
- C) Arundhati Roy and Vikram Seth
- D) Uday Prakash and Namvar Singh

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Gulzar and Rambhadracharya**

■ *Explanation: The 58th Jnanpith Award (2023) was conferred jointly on Gulzar (Urdu poet, lyricist, and filmmaker) and Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit scholar, spiritual leader, and Hindi author), recognising their extraordinary literary contributions.*

Q69. Amrita Pritam, the first woman to win the Sahitya Akademi Award (1956), is celebrated for which Punjabi poem written during the Partition?

- A) Pinjar
- B) Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu
- C) Kagaz Te Canvas
- D) Sunehe

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu**

■ *Explanation: Amrita Pritam's Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu (Today I Call on Waris Shah) is a heart-rending Punjabi poem written in 1947 lamenting the violence of Partition. She was the first woman to win the Sahitya Akademi Award and received the Padma Vibhushan.*

Q70. Ismat Chughtai's famous Urdu short story 'Lihaaf' (The Quilt) caused a controversy and legal case because it dealt with which theme?

- A) Religious conversion
- B) Homosexuality and female desire
- C) Anti-colonial politics
- D) Caste discrimination

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Homosexuality and female desire**

■ *Explanation: Lihaaf (The Quilt, 1942) by Ismat Chughtai dealt boldly with female sexuality and implied lesbianism, leading to an obscenity trial. She was eventually acquitted. The story is considered a landmark of progressive Urdu literature.*

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