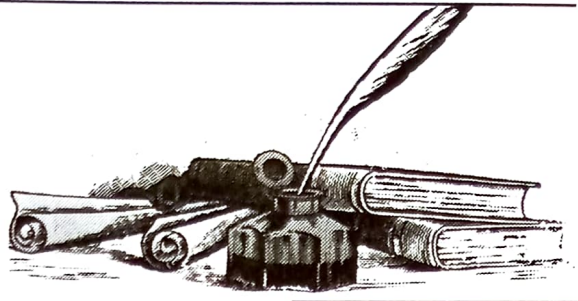
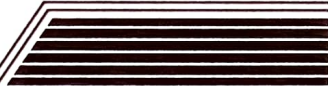



AFTERWARDS

Thomas Hardy



When the Present has latched its postern behind my tremulous stay,
And the May month flaps its glad green leaves like wings,
Delicate-filmed as new-spun silk, will the neighbours say,
“He was a man who used to notice such things”?

If it be in the dusk when, like an eyelid’s soundless blink,
The dewfall-hawk comes crossing the shades to alight
Upon the wind-warped upland thorn, a gazer may think,
“To him this must have been a familiar sight.”

If I pass during some nocturnal blackness, mothy and warm,
When the hedgehog travels furtively over the lawn,
One may say, “He strove that such innocent creatures should
come to no harm,
But he could do little for them; and now he is gone.”

If, when hearing that I have been stilled at last, they stand at
the door,

Watching the full-starred heavens that winter sees,
Will this thought rise on those who will meet my face no more,
“He was one who had an eye for such mysteries”?

And will any say when my bell of quittance is heard in the gloom,
And a crossing breeze cuts a pause in its outrollings,
Till they rise again, as they were a new bell’s boom,
“He hears it not now, but used to notice such things?”

Life of the poet :

THOMAS HARDY (2 June 1840-11 January 1928)

Thomas Hardy is one of the greatest of English regional novelists. Hardy was very pellucid and simple emphasising on realism in his writings. Being a realist Hardy examined the social conventions and constraints and criticised the beliefs that hindered people's lives and engendered unhappiness. Hardy makes humans an insignificant part of the world, struggling against something mightier than himself or the evil forces that cause unhappiness in human life. Although he is widely recognised as a famous novelist his forte in poetry is unmatched. His childhood was spent with musicality in his family. Later, he found the continuation of this music in Dorset, which provided to him one of the Nation's most rustic and pastoral landscapes. He was much in love with the accent of this place too. In his lifetime he published total eight volumes of poetry with almost one thousand poems. His Emma poems are considered to be one of finest celebrations of the dead in English poetry. His war poetry has also very notable impact, particularly with reference to the Boar war and World War I.

Hardy's famous novel *Far from the Madding Crowd* puts him in the centre of attention. Some of his earlier works like *Under the Greenwood Tree* and *A Pair of Blue Eyes* are captivating. *The Return of Native* and *The Woodlanders* are regarded as Hardy's masterpieces. Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891) and *Jude the Obscure* (1895) are the instances of more adept crafting of art and his pessimist philosophy.

Summary :

The poet imagines what the neighbours will say when they will come to know that he used to notice the month of may flapping its cheerful green leaves as if they were wings as delicate as newly webbed silk. He wonders if the nightjar flies across the shades to land on the wind-bent hawthorn, looking at which someone may think that it must have been a familiar sight to him. The poet wonders if he dies in the mothy and warm night when a hedgehog scurries secretly across the lawn. Having noticed this one may say that he took great care of such innocent creatures, but he was supposed to do more for them and now he is dead. The poem ponders when they will come to know about the poet's death, they will stand at the door looking at the starry winter sky. The poet thinks if they would wonder that

he had an eye for such mysteries. He contemplates if anyone would say when his funeral bell sounds in the darkness and a cold breeze cuts off the Bell's echos until they start again as if new bell sound had resonated that he's no longer alive to witness it but he used to notice such things.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS [MCQ]

Marks

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1. When was '*Afterwards*' by Thomas Hardy published?
(A) 1918
(B) 1917
(C) 1919
(D) 1920
2. '*Afterwards*' was written during—
(A) World War I
(B) World War II
(C) Gunboat war
(D) None of these
3. 'Postern' means—
(A) Back door
(B) Postcard
(C) Destination
(D) Secret
4. "When the Present has latched its postern behind my tremulous stay"—here 'present' signifies—
(A) Happiness
(B) Gift
(C) Life
(D) Letter
5. "When the Present has latched its postern behind my tremulous stay"—the above expression implies—
(A) The poet's life has shut the back door of his transient time in this world
(B) The poet has got the gift he has been waiting for
(C) The poet wants to escape from death
(D) The poet wants to stay some more time in this world
6. Which of the following devices did the poet use to describe May?
(A) Lush green leaves
(B) Healthy green leaves
(C) Glad green leaves
(D) Fresh green leaves
7. May month flaps its glad green leaves like—
(A) Birds
(B) Kites
(C) Wind
(D) Wings

- 8. Which month has been mentioned in the poem 'Afterwards'?**
- (A) August (B) April
(C) March (D) May
- 9. May reminds the poet of—**
- (A) Dewfall-hawk (B) Glad green leaves
(C) Blooming flowers (D) Clear Sky
- 10. The poet's stay in this world has been described as—**
- (A) Transitory (B) Timorous
(C) Tremulous (D) Transient
- 11. What is considered as 'Delicate-filmed as new-spun silk'?**
- (A) Wind-warped upland thorn (B) Present
(C) Wild flowers (D) Wing-like leaves
- 12. What does the expression 'new-spun silk' imply here—**
- (A) Growth of the silkworms
(B) Spring's delicacy and wonder
(C) Full-starred heavens
(D) The benevolent innocent creatures
- 13. What does the poet think the neighbours would say about him after his death?**
- (A) A benevolent figure (B) A great poet
(C) Nature lover (D) Nature's noticer
- 14. "If it be in the dusk..."—here 'it' implies :**
- (A) Inhaling nature's fresh air (B) Nocturnal walk
(C) Poet's death (D) Meeting with his beloved
- 15. "Like an eyelid's soundless blink" - about whom has this been described?**
- (A) The Dewfall-hawk (B) The wing-like leaves
(C) The poet (D) The neighbours
- 16. "... crossing the shades to alight"—this expression suggests—**
- (A) The bird is landing on the ground
(B) The emancipation of the poet
(C) The poet wants to escape death
(D) poet's spirit crossing from life to death

17. 'Wind-warped' means—

- (A) Wind erosion
- (B) wrinkled
- (C) Bent out of shape by strong winds
- (D) Blown away by strong winds

18. The Dewfall-hawk alights upon—

- (A) Wind-warped upland thorn
- (B) Wind-warped desert thorn
- (C) Cliff
- (D) Sea buckthorn

19. '...familiar sight'—which sight is familiar to whom?

- (A) The sight of Dewfall-hawk was familiar to the poet
- (B) The sight of Dewfall-hawk was familiar to the hedgehog
- (C) The sight of poet was familiar to the neighbours
- (D) The beauty of nature was familiar to the Dewfall-hawk

20. What does the expression—"If I pass during some nocturnal blackness, mothy and warm..." imply.

- (A) The poet is afraid of death
- (B) The poet is scared of darkness
- (C) The poet doesn't know when he will die
- (D) The poet is overwhelmed by night's tranquility

21. The night is—

- (A) Foggy and cold
- (B) Mossy and warm
- (C) Mysterious
- (D) Lifeless and cold

22. Thirds stanza refers to—

- (A) Autumn
- (B) Spring
- (C) Summer
- (D) Winter

23. Which animal travels furtively over the lawn?

- (A) Squirrel
- (B) Cat
- (C) Musk-rat
- (D) Hedgehog

24. "But he could do little for them.."—What act of poet has been mentioned here?

- (A) His steps to protect animals from cruelty
- (B) His act of writing about wildlife
- (C) His act of feeding the animals twice a day
- (D) His act of bringing them up

- 25.** What do the neighbours do after hearing that the poet has been stilled at last?
- (A) Mourn
 - (B) Contemplate the good deeds done by the poet
 - (C) Stand at the door watching the full-starred winter heavens
 - (D) Stand at the door and pray to the heavens
- 26.** According to the envisage of the poet what will the neighbours think after he dies?
- (A) He had an great eye for the art works
 - (B) He had an eye for such supernatural phenomenon
 - (C) He had an eye for such mysteries
 - (D) He had an eye for stylography
- 27.** Here the word 'mysteries' implies—
- (A) Poet's death secret
 - (B) The mysteries of the neighbours' thoughts
 - (C) The mysteries of full-starred heavens
 - (D) The secrets of nature
- 28.** "Bell of quittance"—refers to
- (A) A church bell that tolls to tell the time
 - (B) A church bell that tolls to recognize a death
 - (C) A church bell that tolls to herald a coronation
 - (D) A church bell that tolls to call the faithful to worship
- 29.** What does the expression "And a crossing breeze cuts a pause in its outrollings," emphasis:
- (A) Stormy night
 - (B) Gush of wind
 - (C) A chilly weather that makes the poet feel chilled to the bone
 - (D) Silence that overpowers the usual noises
- 30.** The expression "...new bell's bloom" refers to—
- (A) A hope of rebirth after death
 - (B) The bell sounds clearer
 - (C) A new bell has been replaced
 - (D) Poet's reverence
- 31.** How has the speaker been described when the bell of quittance is heard in the gloom?
- (A) Ignorant
 - (B) Mysterious
 - (C) Keen
 - (D) Unable to hear

32. "He hears it not now"—Why does he not hear?
(A) He is dead (B) He is deaf
(C) He is not curious (D) He is ignorant
33. "He hears it not now, but used to notice such things?"—Who will say this?
(A) Poet's parents (B) Poet's beloved
(C) Neighbours (D) Nature
34. For what does he want people to recall him after he dies?
(A) His wit (B) His fame
(C) His benevolence (D) His closeness with nature
35. "When the present has latched its postern"—Identify the figure of speech :
(A) Metaphor (B) Personification
(C) Simile (D) Irony
36. "Tremulous stay"—is an example of
(A) Metaphor (B) Personification
(C) Simile (D) Irony
37. ".the full-starred heavens that winter sees"—Identify the figure of speech
(A) Metaphor (B) Personification
(C) Simile (D) Hyperbole
38. *Afterwards* contains—
(A) 24 lines (B) 16 lines
(C) 20 lines (D) 28 lines
39. The poem is divided into—
(A) Five quatrains (B) Three quatrains
(C) Four quatrains (D) None of these above
40. The poem is written in—
(A) Accentual meter (B) Free verse
(C) Accentual-syllabic meter (D) None of these above
41. The rhyme scheme that the poem follows is—
(A) AABB (B) ABAB
(C) ABBA (D) None of these above

42. The poem is set in—

- (A) Utopia
- (B) Real world
- (C) Critical circumstance
- (D) Imagined future

43. What is a Dewfall-hawk?

- (A) Hardy's poetic word for the nightjar
- (B) A bird that herald life
- (C) A dangerous bird
- (D) The poet himself

44. The eyelid's blink is described as—

- (A) Attractive
- (B) Fast
- (C) Soundless
- (D) Furtive

45. Which animal has been mentioned as the representative of innocent creatures?

- (A) Lamb
- (B) Turtle
- (C) Deer
- (D) Hedgehog

46. The hedgehog travels over the—

- (A) Forest
- (B) Lane
- (C) bridge
- (D) Lawn

47. Who will "...stand at the door"?

- (A) The hedgehog
- (B) Neighbours
- (C) Poet's family
- (D) The poet

48. *Afterwards* was published in—

- (A) Moments of Vision and Miscellaneous Verses
- (B) Moments of observation and Miscellaneous Verses
- (C) Moments of conversation and Miscellaneous Verses
- (D) None of these above

49. The theme of the poem *Afterwards* is—

- (A) Love for nature
- (B) Mysteries of nature
- (C) Observance
- (D) Death and Remembrance

50. Thomas Hardy is a famous poet of—

- (A) Renaissance
- (B) Victorian era
- (C) Romantic period
- (D) Mediaeval period

- 51. Thomas Hardy's work spans**
- (A) Romantic period
 - (B) Victorian period
 - (C) Modern era
 - (D) Both Victorian and modern eras
- 52. Thomas Hardy was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by**
- (A) Romanticism
 - (B) Spirituality
 - (C) Agnosticism
 - (D) Patriotism
- 53. He was highly _____ of Victorian society.**
- (A) Critical
 - (B) Pleased
 - (C) Fond
 - (D) Ignorant
- 54. Hardy criticised**
- (A) The lowly lifestyle
 - (B) Social constraints and conventions
 - (C) Modernity
 - (D) Both option (A) and (C)
- 55. One of the important themes we can see in Thomas Hardy's creations is,**
- (A) Satire
 - (B) Humour
 - (C) Melancholy
 - (D) Fate or chance
- 56. Thomas Hardy was a**
- (A) Victorian Revolutionist
 - (B) Victorian realist
 - (C) None of these
 - (D) Both (A) and (B) are correct
- 57. Thomas Hardy was best known for his _____.**
- (A) Poetry
 - (B) Short Stories
 - (C) Novels
 - (D) Essays
- 58. His writing style was—**
- (A) Pessimistic
 - (B) Optimistic
 - (C) Imaginative
 - (D) Obscure
- 59. Most of his novels are set in _____.**
- (A) Essex
 - (B) Wessex
 - (C) Middlesex
 - (D) None of these above

- 60.** Thomas Hardy portrays _____ in his novels.
 (A) Urban life (B) Rural life
 (C) Humanity (D) Nature
- 61.** The title 'Afterwards' implies—
 (A) After the death of the poet
 (B) After the present having latched its postern
 (C) Afterlife of the poet
 (D) After the Dewfall-hawk arrived
- 62.** Who is the speaker of the poem?
 (A) Poet's friend (B) Poet's wife
 (C) Poet (D) Poet's neighbour
- 63.** _____ month flaps its green leaves like wings.
 (A) April (B) December
 (C) August (D) May
- 64.** That the poet chooses to use the word 'Afterwards' instead of 'death' is an example of—
 (A) Word pun (B) Transferred Epithet
 (C) Euphemism (D) None of these above
- 65.** According to the poet, when does the eyelid blink soundlessly?
 (A) Dawn (B) Dusk
 (C) Morning (D) Dream

Answer

1. (B)	2. (A)	3. (A)	4. (C)	5. (A)	6. (C)	7. (D)	8. (D)	9. (B)	10. (C)
11. (D)	12. (B)	13. (D)	14. (C)	15. (A)	16. (D)	17. (C)	18. (A)	19. (A)	20. (C)
21. (B)	22. (A)	23. (D)	24. (A)	25. (C)	26. (C)	27. (D)	28. (B)	29. (D)	30. (A)
31. (D)	32. (A)	33. (C)	34. (D)	35. (B)	36. (A)	37. (B)	38. (C)	39. (A)	40. (A)
41. (B)	42. (D)	43. (A)	44. (C)	45. (D)	46. (D)	47. (B)	48. (A)	49. (D)	50. (B)
51. (D)	52. (A)	53. (A)	54. (B)	55. (D)	56. (B)	57. (C)	58. (C)	59. (B)	60. (B)
61. (A)	62. (C)	63. (D)	64. (C)	65. (B)					