

) Check your progress:

A) Complete the following choosing the correct alternative:

i) Western drama was born in _____.

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a) Rome | c) Greece |
| b) England | d) France |

ii) The tragedies were performed at the festival of _____.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| a) Zeus | c) Vulcan |
| b) Dionysus | d) Here |

iii) The word tragedy is derived from the Greek word 'tragos' which means a _____.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| a) goat | c) cat |
| b) sheep | d) lion |

iv) _____ is a famous tragedy by Sophocles.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| a) Oresteia | c) Titus Andronicus |
| b) Medea | d) Oedipus Rex |

v) Gorboduc was written in _____.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| a) 1564 | c) 1616 |
| b) 1562 | d) 1662 |

B) Answer the following in one word, phrase or sentence each:

i) Who won the first ever tragedy competition?

ii) What is a trilogy?

iii) Who introduced tragedy in Rome? When?

iv) Who was the most influential Roman tragedian?

v) What is Aristotle's contribution to the study of Poetry?

II. Check your progress:

A. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative:

i) Tragedy is an imitation of an action in the form of _____.

- a) narration
- b) action
- c) dance
- d) song

ii) _____ is the function of tragedy according to Aristotle.

- a) hubris
- b) hamartia
- c) catharsis
- d) ethos

iii) Aristotle preferred a _____ plot.

- a) simple
- b) compound
- c) collateral
- d) complex

iv) The plot structure given by Freytag is _____ in shape.

- a) round
- b) pyramidal
- c) hexagonal
- d) square

v) According to Aristotle _____ is the soul of tragedy.

- a) Character
- b) Plot
- c) Song
- d) Diction

B. Answer the following in one word, phrase or sentence each:

i) What is the aim of tragic representation?

- ii) Which is the most important of the Unities?
- iii) What is the use of the Unities in a tragedy?
- iv) What is “ethos”?
- v) What is hamartia?
- vi) What is setting?
- vii) What is the function of the chorus in a tragedy

Check your Progress:

A. Complete the following choosing the correct alternative:

- i) The Greek tragedy is also called _____ tragedy.
 - a)Renaissance
 - b)classical
 - c) Neo-classical
 - d) romantic
- ii)_____ is one of the greatest tragedians of the Elizabethan –Jacobean Age.
 - a) Shakespeare
 - b) T.S.Eliot
 - c) Ben Jonson
 - d) John Milton
- iii) Horror tragedy is inspired by the works of the Roman dramatist_____.
 - a) Plautus
 - b) Terence
 - c) Sophocles
 - d) Seneca
- iv) The Heroic play is written in the _____ metre.
 - a) Spenserian stanza
 - b) ballad
 - c) heroic couplet
 - d) blank verse
- v) *All for Love* was written by _____.

a) John Dryden

b) John Milton

c) Prof. Dowden

d) Ben Jonson

1.5 Glossary and Notes:

reconciliation (n): the process of making two or more ideas agree with each other when they actually seem to be in opposition

ingredients (n): things or qualities of which something is made

episode (n): an event or a situation occurring as part of a long series of events

ode (n): a poem addressed to a thing or person, or celebrating some special event

liturgical (adj.): about a fixed form of public worship used in churches

Mysteries and Miracle plays (n): a medieval drama based on events in the Bible or the lives of Christian saints

interlude (n): a piece performed during an interval separating the parts of a play

incorporate (v): to include

embellish (v): decorate

delineation (n): the process of showing something by describing it in detail

illuminate (v): to make something clear, explain

predicament (n): difficult or uneasy situation

infallible (adj.) perfect

grandeur (n): the quality of being great, impressive

pertinent (adj.): relevant to something

flaw (n): a fault

emulate (v): follow, imitate

1.6 Key to check your progress:

I A. i) Greece ii) Dionysus iii) goat iv) Oedipus Rex v) 1562

B. i) Thespis

ii) a series of three plays

iii) Livius Andronicus in 240 B.C.

iv) Seneca

v) Poetics- an essay on the nature and function of tragedy

II A i) action

ii) catharsis

iii) complex

iv) pyramidal

v) plot

B. i) to leave an audience relieved through tragic pleasure

ii) Unity of Action

iii) to lend economy in handling of plot and delineation of character in a tragedy

iv) a set of moral qualities

v) an error in judgment, a miscalculation on the part of the tragic hero

vi) Setting is the general locale and the historical time in which the action occurs.

vii) narrator, commentator and interpreter of actions on the stage

III. i) classical ii) Shakespeare iii) Seneca iv) heroic couplet v) John Dryden

1.7 Exercises:

1. Answer the following in about 200-250 words each:

- i) Give an account of the origin of tragedy.
- ii) Write a detailed note on the constituents of tragedy.
- iii) Explain the various types of tragedy.

2. Write short notes on following in about 100-150 words each:

- i) Definition of tragedy
- ii) Plot in tragedy
- iii) Characterization in tragedy
- iv) Chorus in tragedy
- v) Domestic tragedy
- vi) Heroic play
- vii) Renaissance tragedy

1.8 Activities:

- i) Study the evolution of the tragic hero from the Greek to the modern drama.
- ii) Find out information about the theatre of the Absurd.

1.9 Suggested Reading:

- i) Nicoll, Allardyce. *British Drama*. Delhi: Doaba House, 1963. Print.
- ii) Rees, R. J. *English Literature*. New Delhi: Macmillan India Ltd, 2008. Print.
- iii) Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. Bangalore: Thomson Heinle, 2005. Print.
- iv) The World Book Encyclopedia