

MODEL QUESTION 23

Unit: 12, lesson: 3

Read the following passage and answer the questions following it

Michael Madhusudan Dutt was a popular 19th-century Bengali poet and dramatist. He was born in Sagordari on the bank of the Kopotaksho River, a village in Keshobpur Upozila under Jessore district.

From an early age, Dutt aspired to be an Englishman in form and manner. Though he was born in a sophisticated Hindu family, he took Christianity as a young man, much to the ire of his family, and adopted the first name Michael. In his childhood, he was recognized by his teachers as a precious child with a gift of literary talent. His early exposure to English education and European literature at home and his college inspired him to imitate the English in taste, manners and intellect.

Since his adolescence he started believing that he was born on the wrong side of the planet, and that his society was unable to appreciate his intellect. He also believed that the West would be more receptive to his creative genius. Michael was an ardent follower of the famous English poet Lord Byron. So after adopting Christianity, he went to Europe and started composing poetry and drama almost entirely in English. They proved his higher level of intellectual ability. However, he failed to gain the right appreciation. With his utter frustrations he saw that he was not regarded as a native writer of English literature. Out of his frustration he composed a sonnet in Bangla "Kopotaksha Nad", which earned him huge reputation in Bangla. Gradually he could realise that his true identity lies here in this Bengal and he was a sojourner in Europe. Afterwards he regretted his attraction for England and the Occident. He came to Bengal and devoted himself to Bangla literature from this period. He is the poet to write the first Bangla epic *Meghand Badh Kabya*.

1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1x7=7

- (a) Which of the following has the closest meaning of the word ' **sophisticated** ' ?
(i) aristocrat (ii) vagabond (iii) poor (iv) impoverish
- (b) Which of the following has the closest meaning of the word ' **exposure** ' ?
i) envelope ii) manifestation iii) close iv) oblivion
- (c) Which of the following has the closest meaning of the word ' **ardent** ' ?
i) deem ii) dark iii) desolate iv) glaring
- (d) Kopotaksha River inspired him to write _____
(i) English Poetry (ii) Sonnet (iii) Drama (iv) Bangla Literature
- (e) Which of the following statement is true?
i) He was born in a Muslim family ii) He was born in a Hindu family
iii) He was born in a Christian family iv) He was born in an English family



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- (f) He adopted the first name _____
- i) John ii) Lord iii) Michel iv) William
- (g) Which of the following has the closest meaning of the word 'sojourner'?
- i) temporary settler ii) permanent iii) local iv) by birth
- (h) What does the expression "**the West would be more receptive to his creative genius**" in the passage mean?
- i. The West would give him money ii. The West would treat him like an Englishman
iii. The West would abandon him iv. The West would appreciate his talent.
- (i) Why did he write Sonnet?
- i. To become popular ii. To be an Englishman iii. To follow Lord Byron iv. Out of frustration
- (j) Michael Madhusudan converted to a Christian _____
- i. in his childhood ii. in his youth iii. in his old age iv. immediately after his birth
- (k) Which of the following best describes Michael's family?
- i) Rich and miserly family ii. Cultured and fashionable family
iii. A sophisticated Christian family iv. A poor but fashionable family
- (l) Which of the following statements is true about Michael Madhusudan Dutt?
- i. He composed a sonnet in English.
ii. He was a famous English poet.
iii. He failed to gain the right appreciation from the West.
iv. He was an ardent follower of all famous English poets
- (m) Michael Madhusudan Dutt expressed sorrow because of _____
- i. his hatred for England and the West ii. his attraction for Bangla literature
iii. his fascination for England and the West iv. his conversion to Christianity
- (n) Which of the following statement is true?
- i. Dutt had an aversion to England ii. His works scarcely had any literary value
iii. Madhusudan Dutt was a popular playwright iv. Dutt earned reputation in the west

(o) What does the clause "he was a sojourner in Europe" mean?

- i. He was accepted by Europe
- ii. He lived in Europe for a time
- iii. He lived in Europe
- iv. He left Europe

(p) Michael Madhusudan Dutt was frustrated because _____

- i. He gained right appreciation from the West
- ii. He was not properly evaluated by the West
- iii. He failed to gain right appreciation from the Bengalis
- iv. He was not properly evaluated by the Bengalis

(q) What is the main purpose of the author of this passage?

- i. To sketch Michael's life.
- ii. To describe Michael's separation from his family.
- iii. To state Michael's literary talent.
- iv. To highlight Michael's conversion to Christianity.

(r) Dutt's literary work in English proved his _____

- i. lack of merit
- ii. great intellectual power
- iii. worthlessness of English literature
- iv. lack of literary talent

(s) Michael Madhusudan Dutt was _____

- i. a favourite poet and playwright
- ii. a popular dramatist
- iii. a popular poet
- iv. an infamous poet and dramatist

2. Answer the following questions.

2x5=10

a) Who was Michael Madhusudan Dutt? Give a short description of him.

b) What inspired him to write in English?

c) Why did he leave English society?

d) Why did he start to write in Bangla again?

e) Do you support his adopting Christianity? If not, why?

Eid is the main religious festival of the Muslims in Bangladesh. Eid means happiness. Everyone wants to share this happiness with their near and dear ones. So most of the people, who are living outside their home for different reasons have a strong desire to get back home during the Eid vacations. As a result, there is a mad rush in the buses, trains, or launches for the home-bound people. This often causes transport accidents that take away many lives. However, it cannot stop people's desire to meet their family, in-laws, or friends. What makes people rush for their homes in spite of serious hazards? This is the pull of the roots. Do human beings have roots like the trees? The answer is 'yes' but unlike the roots of the trees they are invisible, they lie in our minds. It's these roots that make a bond between us and family members, in-laws, friends, neighbours or even between us and the land where we were born and grew up. In that sense our families, land of birth, relatives, our culture, traditions, or surroundings are our roots.



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And wherever we stay, we have a continuous pull of our roots. It's our roots that develop our identity making us what we are. When we lose that bond, we become rootless. Human beings, who do not have any root or contexts, are non-entity. In other words, they do not have their own identity. Such persons are devoid of values, humanity, and social responsibilities. They don't know where they are from, and/or where they are heading towards. This often makes them feel empty and lost.

3. Fill in the blank with suitable word. Use one word only in each blank.

1 × 5 = 5

Eid is a (a) _____ festival. Everyone wants to share Eid happiness with his (b) _____ and near ones. People outside home become (c) _____ to get back village. Nothing can stop them. It is a spontaneous (d) _____ to our home. This is the pull of roots. It is also a (e) _____ and happiness.

