

SIDNEY'S

An Apology

For Poetry



NEW
KITAB MAHAL

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13. Select Critical Questions With Answers:-

1. Assess Sidney's contribution as a critic. Can he be regarded as the father of English criticism ?
Or
2. To what extent is Sidney the critic a 'classicist' ?
Do you detect any 'romantic' traits in him ?
Or
3. Consider the view that though by training Sidney is a 'classicist', he is by taste and temperament a 'romantic'.
Or
4. Write a note on Sidney's originality as a critic.
Or
5. Write a short essay on Sidney's achievement as a critic.
Or
6. Was Sidney a classical critic or a romantic one or both ?
Give reasons for your answer.
Or
7. Examine the general point of view adopted by Sidney in his *Apology for Poetry*, and his gifts as a critic.

8. Examine the merits and limitations of Sidney as a critic. 185
9. In what ways is *An Apology for Poetry* a typical of specimen of Renaissance criticism ?
- Or
10. "*An Apology for Poetry* is an epitome of Renaissance criticism." Discuss.
- Or
11. "The importance of this manifesto (*The Apology*), both symptomatically and typically can hardly be exaggerated" (Saintsbury). Comment.
- Or
12. Why was it necessary for Sidney to defend poetry ? How did Sidney react to Stephen Gosson's *Schoole of Abuse* ?
- Or
13. "No other critical work, as broad and as much alive, was written in this period." Do you think that Sidney's "Defence of Poetry" fully deserves this praise ?
- Or
14. What views of poetry were current at the time when Sidney wrote his "Apology" ? How does he controvert them ? 189
- Or
15. "*The Apology* is a glorification of poetry which is no less exalted because it is based on logic and common sense." Elucidate. 190
- Or
16. Write an essay on Sidney's view of poetry, indicating its most important function. How far is this view original ?
- Or
17. Examine the two definitions of poetry given by Sidney.
- Or
18. "Poesy, therefore is an art of imitation ... a representing, counterfeiting or figuring forth" (Sidney). Discuss and comment.
- Or
19. What are the special claims for poetry made by Sir Philip Sidney in his "Defence of Poetry" ?
- Or
20. Critically examine Sidney's views on the antiquity of poetry.
- Or
21. Write a short note on Sidney's views on the nature of poetry.
- Or
22. Critically examine what Sidney says about the function of poetry. 194

- Or
23. Comment on Sidney's use of the term 'Imitation' in connection with poetry.

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24. Discuss Sidney's arguments for the superiority of poetry to history and/or to philosophy.

Or

25. It is a "perfect picture" that the peerless poet gives us. The philosopher can give only a "wordish description". Discuss.

Or

26. Make a comparative study of the functions of history and poetry, and show how the poet is superior to a historian.

Or

27. How does Sidney establish the superiority of the poet over the philosopher ?

Or

28. Comments on Sidney's defence against the various objections raised by puritans against poetry.

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29. What major objections ("most important imputations") were levelled against poetry in Sidney's own day ? How does Sidney answer them ? What do you think of his refutation ?

Or

30. What were the various objections raised by the contemporary Philistines against poetry ? How does Sidney answer them ?

199

31. Why are the dramatic Unities so sacrosanct to Sidney ? Why makes the usually sedate Sidney lose his temper in connection with tragi-comedy ?

Or

32. Discuss fully Sidney's views on the three Unities, and compare his views with those of Dryden and Johnson.

Or

33. Lack of the Unities in contemporary drama is its greatest defect, according to Sidney. Examine critically his views in this connection.

Or

34. What according to Sidney are the chief defects of contemporary drama ?

201

35. Analyse and comment on Sidney's review of English dramatic literature.

Or

36. What does Sidney tell us of (a) the true nature of tragedy, (b) of the state of English tragedy in his time ?

203

37. What are the observations of Sidney on (a) the true nature of comedy, (b) the state of English comedy in his time ?
Or
38. Analyse and discuss and comment on Sidney's assessment of the English comedy in the 16th century.
Or
39. What practical suggestions does Sidney give to make comedy more effective ?
Or
40. "Comedy is an imitation of the common errors of life" (Sidney). Comments. 205
41. Enumerate and define the principal sub-divisions of poetry postulated by Sidney. Is Sidney incomplete (a) by the standard of his own day, (b) by the standard of our own times ?
Or
42. Examine closely the views of Sidney on 'Lyric Poetry'.
Or
43. What, according to Sidney, are the various divisions and sub-divisions of Poetry ? 207
44. What evidence of literary art do you find in Sidney's criticism ? What are the principal qualities of Sidney's prose style as illustrated in the "Apology" ?
Or
45. Write an essay on the permanent value of Sidney's *An Apology for Poetry*. Do you agree with the view that it is more a work of critical synthesis ? 210
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15. Select Bibliography 215