

13865

Famous

Unique Literary Series

E.M. FORSTER

A Passage to India

(A Critical Evaluation)



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction to E.M. Forster	1
	(A) Age of E.M. Forster	1
	(B) Life and Works of E.M. Forster	3
2.	E.M. Forster : A Novelist	5

Or

E.M. Forster : Characteristics of his Novels

University Question's

1.	What are the salient features of the novels of E.M. Forster?	
2.	"Forster likes to work with surprises, mild and great", Discuss.	
3.	What is the importance of 'rhythm' in Forster's prose style, specially with reference to his novel <i>A Passage to India</i> ?	
4.	Is mysticism a prominent feature in the novels of E.M. Forster?	
3.	An Outline Story of <i>A Passage to India</i>	10
4.	Chapter-wise Summary of the Novel with Critical Comments	14
5.	<i>A Passage to India</i> A Critical Appreciation	42

University Questions

1.	" <i>A Passage to India</i> is as fresh and impressive today as when it was first published in 1924, winning the Femina Vie Heureuse and James Tait-Black Memorial prizes." Illustrate.	
2.	" <i>A Passage to India</i> has established itself as a modern classic." Illustrate.	
3.	"In <i>A Passage to India</i> Forster has given us a classic on the strange and tragic fact of history and life, called India." Justify.	
4.	"His psychological understanding is so acute that he can get under the skin of other races than his own" in the light of this remark, attempt an estimate of E.M. Forster's achievement in <i>A Passage to India</i> .	
6.	Major Characters In <i>A Passage to India</i>	48
	(1) Character Sketch of Dr. Aziz	48

University Questions

1. What is the role of Dr. Aziz in the novel, *A Passage to India*? How do the various events show up the predominant trait of his character ?

2. Give a character-sketch of Dr. Aziz with illustrations from the text.
3. What are the leading traits in Dr. Aziz's character? Give illustrations from the text.

(2) Is Aziz the Hero of the Novel?

University Questions

53

1. Is Aziz the hero of the novel? Discuss.
2. Discuss: "A Passage to India is a novel without hero or Dr. Aziz the hero of the novel?"
3. Elucidate the characteristics of Dr. Aziz as the hero of the novel.

(3) Aziz's Nationalism

University Questions

54

1. "Aziz is an embodiment of Indian Nationalism in the most dynamically fiery form". Do you agree?
2. Relate the circumstances which lead Dr. Aziz to remark "Down with the English".
3. Is Dr. Aziz an embodiment of Indian nationalism? Give suitable examples to support your arguments.
4. Why did Aziz come to hate the British rule in India?

(4) Reaction of the People at the Arrest of Dr. Aziz

University Question

56

1. Narrate the reactions of the various people at the arrest of Dr. Aziz.

(5) Character Sketch of Fielding

University Questions

58

1. What is the role of Cyril Fielding in the novel *A Passage to India*? How do the various events show up the predominant traits of his character?
2. Give a brief character-sketch of Cyril Fielding with illustrations from the text.
3. Why did Fielding resign from the club? Trace the circumstances which led to this resignation.

(6) Fielding the only good English Man

University Question

61

1. Is Cyril Fielding the only "good Englishman" at Chandrapore? Illustrate your answer with examples from the text.

(7) Character contrast of Aziz and Fielding

63

University Question

1. Compare and contrast the characters of Fielding and Aziz.
- (8) Character Sketch of Mrs. Moore

65

University Questions

1. Do you agree with A. C. Ward's assessment of Mrs. Moore as "a wise woman without any evident wisdom".
2. "Mrs. Moore seems to me a wholly successful symbol" (Allen). Comment upon it.
3. "In the character of Mrs. Moore, Forster has portrayed the finer type of the English spirit, different from the diplomatic or the imperialistic one. She represents the liberal outlook of the British character." Discuss.
4. What are the leading traits in Mrs. Moore's character? Give illustrations from the text.
5. What aspects of the character of Mrs. Moore does E.M. Forster reveal in his novel, *A Passage to India*?

- (9) Comment on Mrs. Moore's Death

69

University Questions

1. Comment on Mrs. Moore's death on her way to England.
2. "The death of Mrs Moore on her way back to England produced a psychological atmosphere in Chandrapore". Do you agree with this statement?

- (10) Departure of Mrs. Moore A Pathetic Event

70

University Question

1. "The departure of Mrs. Moore from India after the tragic incident in the cave is pathetic, though for her it is a relief." Discuss.

- (11) Character Sketch of Miss Adela Quested

72

University Question

1. "Miss Adela Quested is a mysterious type of a woman, who in the first phase of her life does play the role of a dauntlessly courageous and perfectly balanced heroine, but afterwards sinks into her own inferiority complex." Do you agree with this statement?

- (12) Character Sketch of Prof. Godbole

74

- (13) Character Sketch of Ronny Heaslop

76

7. Minor Characters

78

- (1) Hamidullah

78

- (2) Vakil Mahmood Ali

78

- | | | |
|---|----|----|
| (3) The Nawab Bahadur | 78 | |
| (4) Dr. Panna Lal | 79 | |
| (5) Amrit Rao | 79 | |
| (6) Mr. and Mrs. Turton | 79 | |
| (7) Miss Dereck | 80 | 11 |
| (8) Major and Mrs. Callendar | 80 | |
| (9) Mr. and Mrs. McBryde | 80 | |
| (10) Ralph and Stella Moore | 81 | |
| 8. Characterization in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 82 | |
| 9. Plot Construction in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 85 | |

University Questions

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Analyse the plot of E.M. Forster's <i>A Passage to India</i> . | |
| 2. Write a note on the plot-construction of <i>A Passage to India</i> . | |
| 3. Write a critical note on Forster's art of plot construction in <i>A Passage to India</i> . Is the section entitled 'Temple' necessary? | |
| 4. "The structure of the novel does not consist simply of an arrangement of events. Behind that structure there is another, an arrangement of the novel's meaning". Show how this meaning is brought out in the third section of <i>A Passage to India</i> ? | 13 |
| 10. Significance of the Title : <i>A Passage to India</i> | 89 |

University Question

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Write a short note on the title of <i>A Passage to India</i> and bring out its significance. | |
| 11. The Incident Inside the Marabar Caves | 92 |

Or

Was Adela Quested A Victim of Hallucination?

University Questions

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. "The incident inside the Marabar Caves was a mysterious one". What is your view about it? Was Miss Adela Quested a victim of hallucination? | |
| 2. Did Aziz assault Miss Adela Quested? | |
| 3. How did the echo affect Miss Adela Quested? | |
| 4. What were the reactions of Fielding and Mrs. Moore about the incident at the Marabar Caves? | |
| 5. Trace the events leading to the expedition to the Marabar Caves and point out the consequences of the expedition. | 14. |

(b)

6. What is the outcome of the expedition to the Marabar Caves?
How does it affect the life in Chandrapore?

12. Mosque, Caves and Temple : Their Significance
University Questions

1. Trace the events leading to the expedition to the Marabar Caves and point out the consequences of the expedition.
2. What happens when, leaving Mrs. Moore to her fatigue and exhaustion, Adela and Dr. Aziz, visit the next Cave? What is the significance of this particular visit?
3. How did the different members of Aziz's party react to the Marabar Caves?
4. What is the significance of the meeting of Mrs Moore and Dr. Aziz at the Mosque ?
5. In dividing the novel, *A Passage to India* in three sections- Mosque, Caves and Temple, has E.M. Forster sought to divide India into three incompatible sections or is his intention to present the three aspects of India?

13. Personal Relationships in *A Passage to India*
University Question

1. Is it possible for the Indians to be friends with the Englishmen? Illustrate your answer from the text.
2. Write a critical note on personal relationships in *A Passage to India*.
3. In *A Passage to India*, E.M. Forster "has carried the riddle of human relations and society to its furthest boundary." (M.D. Zabel). Discuss and illustrate
4. Write a note on personal relationships in *A Passage of India*.
5. Is it possible for the Indians to be friends with the Englishmen?

14. Symbolism In *A Passage to India*
University Questions

1. Write a note on the symbolism in *A Passage to India*.
2. Relate briefly the legend about the 'Shrine of the Head, and the 'Shrine of the Body' at Mau and describe Aziz's accidental meeting with Fielding there.
3. What is the meaning and relevance of the 'Shrine of the Head' and the 'Shrine of the Body' at Mau?
4. Show how Forster has worked out his story in *A Passage to India* and invested it in many places with a symbolic significance.

5. Bring out briefly but clearly the symbolism of the 'Mosque', 'Cave' and 'Temple' in *A Passage to India*.

15. The Theme of the Novel : *A Passage to India*

University Questions

107

1. What is the theme of the novel *A Passage to India*?
2. Is E.M. Forster preoccupied with the political problem in his novel *A Passage to India*?
3. Is the racial problem the main theme of the novel *A Passage to India*?

16. The Presence of Evil in *A Passage to India*

110

University Questions

1. Describe briefly Ronny's and Adela's ride in the Nawab Bahadur's car and the accident which followed.
2. What is the significance of the echo in the Caves?

17. Depiction of India in *A Passage to India*

114

Or

The Atmosphere of India in *A Passage to India*

University Questions

1. What aspects of an Indian's character are revealed in *A Passage to India*?
2. Has Forster been able to give us a convincing picture of the oriental mind in *A Passage to India*?
3. Has E.M. Forster been fair in his depiction of India in his novel *A Passage to India*?
4. Write a critical note on the picture of India as presented in *A Passage to India* by Forster and comment on its truth.
5. Sketch briefly Forster's view of India and show how far it is objective and real.
6. Comment briefly on the social life of the Indian community as depicted by Forster in *A Passage to India*.

18. Role of Hinduism in *A Passage to India*

117

University Questions

1. Is Prof. Godbole a true representative of Hinduism?
2. Does Prof. Godbole's reaction towards Dr. Aziz's arrest reflect the attitude of the Hindus toward the Muslims and the ruling English class?
3. Describe briefly the birth celebration of Shri Krishna in the palace-temple at Mau, stating also the part played by Godbole in it.

4. "It is not easy to know what to make of the dominant Hinduism of the third section of the novel *A Passage to India*." Discuss.
5. "It was architecturally necessary. I needed a lump, or a Hindu temple or if you like—a mountain standing up. It is well placed, and it gathers some strings. But there ought to be more after it. The lump sticks out a little too much." Comment on this remark of Forster with reference to the third and the closing section of the novel.
6. What is the exact function of the long description of the Hindu festival in *A Passage to India*?

19. Forster's Portraiture of Muslim India in *A Passage to India*

121

University Question

1. Do you think, Forster has been successful in depicting the Muslim life in India?

20. Portrayal of the Anglo Indian Life In *A Passage to India*

124

University Questions

1. "Ronny Heaslop, represents the typical Anglo-Indian attitude towards the Indians". Discuss.
2. Is Forster's portrayal of the Anglo-Indian life in *A Passage to India* accurate?
3. What do Hamidullah, Mahmoud Ali and Aziz feel about the attitude of the English towards the Indians?
4. Describe briefly the interview between Mrs. Moore and Ronny Heaslop. What according to Ronny, was the work of the Englishman in India?
5. Describe briefly Mr. Fielding's tea-party and how it ended, commenting specially on Aziz's behaviour.
6. Describe Mr. Fielding's travels through Egypt, Crete and Venice. What barrier did he had between himself and his Indian friends?
7. Comment on the depiction of Anglo-Indian relationships in *A Passage to India*.
8. Has Forster been successful in his depiction of tint social life of the English community in India?

127

21. The Theme of Separation In *A Passage to India*

University Questions

1. Discuss the theme of separateness in *A Passage to India*.
2. "Nature and landscape as depicted in *A Passage to India* stress the theme of separation in the novel". Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with special reference to the meeting of Aziz and Fielding at the Shrines of the Body and the Head at Mau.

22. The Message of Emotional Integration in *A Passage to India*

University Questions

1. Discuss *A Passage to India* as a plea for men and women all over the world to save themselves from defeat and disaster by emotional integration.
2. In *A Passage to India*, the political situation is merely an external aspect or the deep-seated moral situation which is the author's real concern. Do you agree?
3. Describe briefly the after-effects of Mrs. Moore's death on the people of Chandrapore and Ronny.
4. How did Aziz's trial bring about closer relationships between the Hindus and the Muslims of Chandrapore?
5. Write a critical note on the message of emotional integration in *A Passage to India*.

134

23. Conception of an Ideal Man in *A Passage to India*

University Questions

1. What is Forster's conception of an ideal man?
2. "Fielding is the only 'good Englishman' in Chandrapore". In the light of this statement could it be said that Fielding is Forster's conception of an ideal man?

137

24. A Study of the Oriental Mind in *A Passage to India*

University Questions

1. Evaluate Forster's *A Passage to India* as a study of the oriental mind.
2. "Forster *A Passage to India* is a fine psychological study of the oriental mind". Discuss.

140

25. *A Passage to India*—Its Technique

Or

Art and Artifice in *A Passage to India*

University Question

1. Point out in brief Forster's technique as a novelist.

26. Forster's Philosophy of life in *A Passage to India*

142

University Questions

1. What is Forster's philosophy of life in *A Passage to India*?
 2. Is Forster's philosophy of life akin to the Hindu philosophy of life? Comment in the light of your reading of *A Passage to India*.
- ## 27. Forster's Theory of the Novel in *A Passage to India*

145

28. Miscellaneous Topics

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (A) A Study of the Racial Problem in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 149 |
| (B) <i>A Passage to India</i> – A Study of the British Raj in India | 149 |
| (C) Significance of the Marabar Caves | 150 |
| (D) <i>A Passage to India</i> : Reflection of Social Life in India | 151 |
| (E) "Mr. Forster's book is not about India alone, it is about all Human Beings." | 153 |
| (F) E.M. Forster's Humour and Satire in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 154 |
| (G) Rhythm in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 155 |
| (H) Spirit of Nationalism in <i>A Passage to India</i> | 157 |

University Questions

1. "Suppressed, oppressed by the British Imperialistic rule, the Indian life had been made inactive for creative purposes, but the spirit of Indian nationalism remained unconquered." Examine this remark in the light of Forster's *A Passage to India*.
 2. "*A Passage to India* deals with Indian nationalism." Do you agree with this remark?
 - (I) The Krishna Festival and the Conclusion of *A Passage to India* 158
- 29. Select Literary Criticism** 160

Forster: A Novelist

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| (1) FR. Lemes | (4) E. Albert |
| (5) E. Albert | (6) Walter Allen |

Theme

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Benita Parry | (3) E. K. Brown |
| (2) Arnold Kettle | (4) A. C. Collins |

Characterisation

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| (1) Gerald Bullett | (2) Lord David Cecil |
| (3) Anne Tibbe | |

Miscellaneous Topics

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) F. Albert | (2) A. Norman Jeffers |
| (3) Scott James | (4) Philip Burra |
| (5) Austine Warron | (6) F.R. Leavis |
| (7) Moody Lovett | (8) A.C. Ward. |

30. Selected University Questions with Answers 164

1. How far do you think E M. Forster has followed in *A Passage to India* the criteria for fiction he has laid down in his *Aspects of the Novel*? 164

Or

Do you think that E.M. Forster's theory and practice of the novel are related? Discuss *A Passage to India* in relation to the Aspect of the Novel.

2. Write a note on the structural pattern of *A Passage to India*

Or

Discuss the plot construction of *A Passage to India*.

166

Or

Discuss the structure of *A Passage to India* in terms of its 'pattern' and 'rhythm'.

Or

The three part structure of *A Passage to India* is tentative. Discuss.

3. Comment on Forster's art of characterization in *A Passage to India*.

169

Or

How successful is Forster in the portrayal of characters in *A Passage to India*? Discuss with reference to their variety and life likeness.

4. Comment on the significance of the character of Fielding and his function in the novel *A Passage to India*.

171

5. Is Forster's portrayal of the Indian characters in *A Passage to India* truthful? In what light does he present them?

172

Or

Write a note on the Indian characters in *A Passage to India* bringing out their attitude to each other and to foreigners. Also comment on the maturity of their minds.

Or

Forster fails miserably with the Hindu characters. Agree or disagree with this view giving an analytical justification for your opinion.

6. Critically examine Forster's accuracy in the portrayal of life in India of the 1920's in *A Passage to India*.

174

Or

Write a note on the realism in the treatment of life and character in *A Passage to India*.

Or

Would you consider *A Passage to India* as a realistic novel? Give illustrations.

(or)

Or

How far would you consider *A Passage to India* as *A Passage to India's* people, religion, culture and archetypes?

7. In what light does Forster present the English Bureaucracy in India? 177

Or

Critically examine Forster's depiction of the Anglo-Indian community in Chandrapore.

Or

What do you gather about the English men and women in India from Forster's novel *A Passage to India*?

8. What is the main theme of *A Passage to India*? How far do you think is the theme of social conflict dealt within the novel? Discuss. 179

Or

Comment on the theme of conflict of cultures in *A Passage to India*.

Or

Comment on the validity of the view "In *A Passage to India*, Forster's intention is to present the Western civilisation in collision with the Eastern, the imperial with the colonial, the human heart in conflict with the machinery of government, class and race"

Or

Do you think Forster has been able to mediate between East and West? Discuss.

Or

Consider *A Passage to India* as a comment on the failure of the ruler and the ruled to "only connect".

Or

9. "Human relationships are with him (Forster) a large theme" – says Rose Macaulay. How far is this true of *A Passage to India*? 182

Or

Comment on the problem of personal relationships as a theme of *A Passage to India*.

Or

What views does Forster seem to have on the subject of personal relationship as presented in *A Passage to India*?

10. Do you agree with the view that *A Passage to India* is pessimistic and defeatist because it deals with the theme of barriers and separatenss ? Give reasons for your answer
 Comment on Forster's outlook on life as revealed in *A Passage to India* Or
 How far does *A Passage to India* deal with the theme of barriers and separatenss ? Discuss. Or
11. Comment on the part played by symbols in *A Passage to India*. Or
 How does Forster use symbolism in *A Passage to India*? Discuss.
12. Bring out the significance of the incidents at the Cave in relation to the novel *A Passage to Indi*.
13. What is Mrs. Moore's role in *A Passage to India*?
14. What are the mystical elements woven into *A Passage to India*? Discuss. Or
 How does Forster's belief in mysticism find expression in *A Passage to India*? Or
 "Forster's interest in both the human and transcendent realities accounts for what... has been termed his kind of 'double vision', a sense of 'this world, and a world or worlds behind.'" Discuss the 'double vision' of Forster with reference to *A Passage to India*. Or
 ".....in Forster the sense of the transcendent realm consistently affects and colours the physical realm". Discuss with reference to *A Passage to India*.
15. How far do you think *A Passage to India* supports the view of E.M. Forster as a writer in the liberal humanist tradition? Or
 Critically examne E.M. Forster's work in the light of belonging to the liberal humanist tradition. Illustrate from any one of his novels that you have read.
16. Critically examine Forster's *A Passage to India* with reference to the (i) points of view (ii) tone, and (iii) style.
17. Discuss the chief merits of Forster as a novelist.
31. Objective-type Questions with Answers (MCQ's)

... 190

... 193

... 195

... 197

... 198