

‘The Unknown Citizen’

W.H. Auden (1907-1973)

Q1. Which of the following is a member in the 'Auden Group' of poets:

- (a) Stephen Spender
- (b) Louis Mac Niece
- (c) C.D. Lewis
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q2. The ‘Auden Group’ (of British and Irish poets) which was active in 1930s is also known as:

- (a) the Thirties Poets
- (b) MacSpaunday¹
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c)

Q3. The Auden group of poets shared left-wing views and produced important works in the 1930s. The age is characterized as:

- (a) The ‘Age of Anxiety’
- (b) The ‘Age of Experimentation’
- (c) The Age of Revolution
- (d) None of these

Ans. (a)

¹ MacSpaunday was a name invented by Roy Campbell in his *Talking Bronco* (1946) to designate a composite of four poets in the Auden Group:

Louis MacNeice (“Mac”)
Stephan Spender (“sp”)
W. H. Auden (“au-n”)
Cecil Day-Lewis (“day”)

Q4. Auden's long Pulitzer Prize winning poem, *The Age of Anxiety: A Baroque Eclogue* was published in:

- (a) 1930
- (b) 1938
- (c) 1940
- (d) 1948

Ans. (d)

Q5. Auden's poetic style gave a new direction to poetry in the Twentieth Century and is referred to as 'Audensque' which is:

- (a) Colloquial
- (b) Witty
- (c) Ironic
- (d) All of these

Ans. (d)

Q6. 'The Unknown Citizen' was first published in *Listener* in the year:

- (a) 1929
- (b) 1930
- (c) 1939
- (d) 1940

Ans. (c)

Q7. Who is the *unknown citizen* in the poem? Tick the most appropriate option:

- (a) An ordinary soldier who has laid his life defending his motherland
- (b) An ordinary citizen in modern industrial urban society
- (c) An ordinary citizen who has not committed any crime
- (d) An ordinary citizen who has lived a disciplined life.

Ans. (b)

Q8. The government department/s that keeps a vigilant record of an average citizen's life:

- (a) Bureau of Statistics
- (b) Producers Research

- (c) High-Grade Living
- (d) All of these

Ans. (d)

Q9. The reference to the epitaph (JS/07 M 378) on the 'Marble Monument' (usually erected by the State in memory of unidentified people or soldiers of war) is:

- (a) A satire on modern statistical records that refer to a man by numbers
- (b) A satire on writing numerical epitaphs
- (c) A satire on State's disregard for soldiers' sacrifice
- (d) None of these

Ans. (a)

Q10. A scientist concerned with improving the well of human population is known as

- (a) Eugenist
- (b) Anthropologist
- (c) Sociologist
- (d) Population scientist

Ans. (a)

Q11. The Bureau of Statistics found:

- (a) The unknown citizen was a saint
- (b) There was no official complaint against him
- (c) He did not pay his taxes
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q12. Throughout his life, the unknown citizen:

- (a) Worked at Fudge Motors Inc.
- (b) Served the Greater Community
- (c) Fought with his mates
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q13. 'He was popular with his mates and liked a drink' refers to:

- (a) His dislike for rules and regulations
- (b) His social behavior
- (c) His unprofessional attitude to work
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Q14. 'And had everything necessary to the Modern Man' means:

- (a) He had acquired material possessions
- (b) He led a comfortable life
- (c) He enjoyed all the rights
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q15. The Unknown Citizen is a good example of:

- (a) A controlled life
- (b) A happy life
- (c) A disciplined life
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

Ans. (d)

Q16. Which of the statement following is true about the unknown citizen:

- (a) The citizen is called saint because of his conduct
- (b) There were lots of complaints against him
- (c) The citizen has not acquired material wealth
- (d) The citizen did not did not participate in war

Ans. (a)

Q17. The unknown citizen had five children. He did not interfere with their education is an indirect way of saying that the quality of education could have been better if the number of his children were lesser. The figure of speech used here is

- (a) Litotes
- (b) Understatement
- (c) Irony
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d)

Q18. Find an antonym in the poem for the word sinner

- (a) Good person
- (b) Saint
- (c) Miscreant
- (d) Wrongdoer

Ans. (b)

Q19. 'Greater Community' is a reference to:

- (a) Nation
- (b) Society
- (c) Company
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans. (d)

Q20. Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- (a) The comparative form of great is greater.
- (b) The one word substitute for 'to dismiss from work' is fired.
- (c) Someone who studies Eugenics is called an Eugenist
- (d) All of the above

Ans. (d)

Note:

For further discussion on the poem you could join our Google Classroom using class code:
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