

**Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end in your own words. (20)**

Poetry is the language of imagination and the passions. It relates to whatever gives immediate pleasure or pain to human mind. It comes home to the bosoms and business of men: for nothing but what comes home to them in the most general and intelligible shape can be a subject of poetry. Poetry is the universal language which the heart holds with nature and itself. He who has a contempt for poetry cannot have much respect for himself or for anything else. Whatever there is a sense of beauty, or power, or harmony, as in the motion of the waves of the sea, in the growth of a flower, there is a poetry in its birth. If history is a grave study, poetry may be said to be graver, its materials lie deeper, and are spread wider. History treats, for the most part, cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things, the empty cases in which the affairs of the world are packed, under the heads of intrigue or war, in different states, and from century to century but there is no thought or feeling that can have entered into the mind of man which he would be eager to communicate to others, or they would listen to with delight, that is not a fit subject for poetry. It is not a branch of authorship: it is "the stuff of which our life is made". The rest is mere oblivion, a dead letter, for all that is worth remembering in life is the poetry of it. Fear is poetry, hope is poetry, love is poetry; hatred is poetry. Poetry is that fine particle within us that expands, refines, raises our whole being; without "man's life is poor as beasts". In fact, man is a poetical animal. The child is a poet when he first plays hide and seek, or repeats the story of Jack the Giant Killer, the shepherd – boy is a poet when he first crowns his mistress with a garland of flowers; the countryman when he stops to look at the rainbow; the miser when he hugs his gold; the courtier when he builds his hope upon a smile; the vain, the ambitious the proud, the choleric man, the hero and the coward, the beggar and the king, all live in a world of their own making; and the poet does no more than describe what all others think and act. Hazlitt

### **Questions**

- (a) In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?
- (b) How is poetry the Universal Language of the heart?
- (c) What is the difference between history and poetry?
- (d) Explain the phrase: "Man is a poetical animal".
- (e) What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its does poet?



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### Reading Comprehension Past Paper-2001

Q:1. In what sense is poetry the language of the imagination and the passion?

Ans: Poetry is the language of the imagination and the passion in the sense that it is related to gives immediate happiness or sadness to human mind. It comes home to the bosoms and business of men that is why poetry is the language of the imagination and the passion.

Q:2. How is poetry the Universal Language of the Hearts?

Ans: Poetry is the universal language of the heart because the heart holds it with nature and itself. Even from the growth of a flower to the motion of the waves of the sea, there is a poetry in its emergence. Therefore, poetry is considered as the universal language of the Heart.

Q:3. What is the difference between history and poetry?

Ans: The difference between history and poetry



is that, history treats for the most part, cumbersome and unwieldy masses of things, which consists on the affairs of the world.

History is an era in which there is no thoughts or feelings which historian wants to communicate with others. In contrast, poetry is a subject of feelings and emotions which is a game of mind and heart. The poet always tries to convey his thoughts to others. This is the basic difference between history & poetry.

Q:4. Explain the Phrase: "Man is a poetical animal."

Ans: The Phrase: "Man is a poetical animal," means that poetry is such a segment in human beings that expands, defines, and raises their complete existence. Without poetry the life of a man is as poor as beasts. Moreover, poetry is the emotions of a man such as fear, hope, love, and hatred. Thus, man is a poetical animal.

Q:5. What are some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its does poet?

Ans: Following are some of the actions which



Haslitt calls poetry and its doers poet.  
Haslitt calls the shepherd, the countryman,  
the miser, the courtier, the choleric man, the  
beggar, and the king as poets, and their  
actions calls poetry. All of them live in  
a world of their own making which Haslitt  
calls poetry.