

Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: *meet* (20)

Manto was a victim of some kind social ambivalence that converged on self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and mental obtuseness. His detractors branded him as a vulgar and obscene and implicated him into a long-drawn legal battle questioning the

*lacking sharpness*

more prostitutes

moral validity of his writings. Without being deterred by their negative tactics, he remained firm in his commitment to exploring the stark realities of life offensive to the conservative taste of some self-styled purists. In the line of Freud, he sought to unravel the mysteries of sex not in an abstract, non-earthly manner but in a palpable, fleshy permutation signifying his deep concern for the socially disabled and depressed classes of society, like petty wage-earners, pimps, and prostitutes. *to give a false appearance of*

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For Manto, man is neither an angel nor a devil, but a mix of both. His middle and lower middle-class characters think, feel and act like human beings. Without feigning virtuosity, he was able to strike a rapport with his readers on some of the most vital socio-moral issues concerning them. As a realist, he was fully conscious of the yawning gap between appearance and reality, in fact, nothing vexed him more than a demonstrable duality in human behaviour at different levels of the social hierarchy. He had an unjaundiced view of man's faults and follies. As a literary artist, he treated vulgarity discreetly --- without ever sounding vulgar in the process. Like Joyee, Lawrence, and Caldwell, in Manto's work too, men and women of the age find their own restlessness accurately mirrored. And like them, Manto was also 'raised above his own self by his sombre enthusiasm'.

a friendly harmonious relationship

feeling or showing

## Manto: A writer of socio-moral issues

Manto had an ambivalent attitude towards society. He was bitterly criticized and sued for his writings. But, regardless of these critiques, he remained adamant in portraying the bitter realities which were distasteful to the conservative minds. He shed light on those questions related to sex which remained unanswered in an ~~com~~ understandable way. He showed his ~~deep~~ profound care for various oppressed strata of society. He opines that both good and evil are possessed by man-kind. He has ~~talked~~ ~~in~~ ~~wrote~~ in length about various social and ethical problems. Like many famous writers, he has correctly depicted the agony of both genders.