

## CSS Essay 2020

### Do We Really need Literature in our lives?

#### ① Outline:

→ Introduction

- Attention grabber
- Thesis statement

#### ② → Main Body:

- Need of literature in our lives
- Literature as a Tool for personal growth
- Forsting Empathy and understanding Through Literature
- Literature as a Preserver of culture and History
- Literature as a catalyst for critical Thinking
- Literature as source of creativity and inspiration

③ → Counterarguments: Is literature a luxury?

④ → Rebuttal: Literature's Unique power

⑤ → Conclusion

### The Essay

Each and every single individual needs an identity on this earth. The identity as per concerned geography for the concerned populations, anywhere on the earth, triggers mind that they have specific rights and responsibilities. The literature has been an integral part of human life and culture for millions of year, playing a crucial role in the intellectual, emotional, and moral development of societies. From ancient oral traditions to modern

rn novels, literature has not only shaped provided entertainment rather also shaped civilizations by fostering empathy, critical thinking, and creativity. Yet, in the rapidly advancing technologies world of the 21st century, the question arises: **Do we really need literature in our lives? Is literature a vital component of human existence, or is it merely a luxury for the educated elite?** This essay argues that literature is indispensable for human life because it ~~fosters~~ fosters personal growth, nurtures empathy, preserves culture and history, provides an avenue for critical thinking, and stimulates creativity, with specific references to the rich literary traditions of Pakistan.

One of the most profound contributions of literature to human life is its ability to foster personal growth. Through literature, individuals explore emotions, grapple with philosophical questions, and confront moral dilemmas. Great works of literature encourage introspection, as readers see aspects of themselves in the characters and situations presented in the text.

For example; Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" challenges readers to consider the nature of guilt, punishment and redemption. The protagonist, Raskolnikov, is torn between his desire for personal growth, greatness, and the

moral compass and the concept of justice. In Pakistani literature, similar themes of personal growth can be found in works like Bano Qudsia's "Raja Gidh". This novel explores human greed, desire, and consequences of straying from the right path way. Through the character of Qayyum, readers are invited to reflect on the ethical ramifications of their choices and the psychological consequences of transgressions, thus aiding in personal growth and self-awareness.

Literature serves as a powerful tool for fostering empathy and understanding through literature by allowing readers to step into the lives and experiences of others. Whether it's walking in the shoes of a different culture, gender, or social class, literature provides a window into the human condition, promoting understanding and tolerance.

A prime example is Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" which addresses themes of injustice, racial discrimination, prejudice and loss of innocence. Similarly, in Pakistani literature, they often explore the complexities of societal hierarchies, class, and discrimination. Sadat Hassan Manto's stories such as "Toba Tek Singh", highlight the human cost of partition, focusing on the experiences of marginalized people. Manto's raw and often uncomfortable depictions of the suffering

and confusion during the 1947 partition allow readers to empathize with those who are affected with this partition. His works fosters a deeper understanding of the personal pain and trauma caused by political divisions, encouraging readers to view the historical events through a humanistic lens.

Moreover, authors like Intizar Hussain in works such as "Basti" provide a narrative that blends history, myth and the dislocation personal pain of the people, offering readers a window into the experiences of ordinary people during critical historical moments. Through such literary work, readers develop empathy and an understanding of others' struggles, fostering a sense of shared humanity across time and space.

Beyond its capacity to nurture empathy, literature plays a pivotal role in preserving of culture and history. Written books act as a repository of human experience, recording the customs, values, beliefs, and struggles of people across different times and places. Without literature, much of humanity's intellectual and cultural heritage would be lost.

In Pakistan, the literary tradition and customs is deeply intertwined with the preservation of cultural identity and national consciousness. Classical Urdu poetry, such as works

of Mirza Ghalib and Allama Iqbal, captures the philosophical and spiritual essence of the region. Iqbal's poetry, in particular, emphasizes self-improvement, the revival of an Islamic civilization, and the importance of spiritual awakening, themes that remain central to Pakistani identity. Iqbal's vision of selfhood and the nation, as mentioned in works like "Bang-e-Dra" and "Asrar-e-Khudi", reflects the socio-political aspirations of the sub-continent's Muslim community, offering not just philosophical insight but also a blue-print for moral and cultural revival.

Similarly, Mumtaz Mufti's "Ali pur or ka Aili" and Qurratulain Hyder's "Aag ka Darya" preserve and explore the complexities of South Asian history, particularly the socio-political and cultural transformations before and after the partition of India. These works encapsulate the nuanced intersections of personal and collective identities in the context of colonialism, migration, and nation-building, ensuring that future generations can understand the legacies of their past.

In this way, Pakistani literature acts as a bridge between the ~~terade~~ past and present, preserving cultural memory and ensuring that the lessons of history are not

not forgotten, the works of Shah Abul-Latif Bhitthai, Bulleh Shah, and Faiz Ahmad Faiz serve as cultural beacons, reflecting the intellectual, spiritual, and socio-political ethos of their respective eras, while continuing to inspire contemporary audiences.

One of the most significant reasons literature remains essential to human life is because it gives the direction of critical thinking about any culture or civilization. Unlike other forms of media that often present information in straightforward or didactic ways, literature requires readers to engage actively with the text, interpret meaning, and reflect on its implications. The ambiguity and complexity of literary works encourage readers to think deeply about various issues, thereby sharpening their analytical skills.

Consider George Orwell's "1984", a dystopian novel that explores the dangers of totalitarianism, censorship, and manipulation of truth. Similarly in Pakistani literature, works like Mohsin Hamid's "Moth Smoke" and "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" offer readers critical insights into the social and political tensions in modern Pakistan. Hamid's novels force readers to confront the moral ambiguities and societal pressures faced by individuals living in

a post-9/11 world, encouraging them to question issues of identity, loyalty and the consequences of global conflict on personal lives.

likewise, the works of Shaukat Siddiqui, specially "Khuda ki Basti", present a critique of socio-economic disparity in Pakistan, highlighting the struggles of the urban people. These stories compel readers to question the systemic inequalities in society and the role of politics in perpetuating poverty, thus fostering a more critical understanding of societal structures.

By questioning the assumptions and values embedded in literary texts, readers develop a more nuanced understanding of the world and their place within it, making literature a critical tool for personal and intellectual growth.

At last literature is also a wellspring of creativity and inspiration. Engaging with literary works exposes individuals to new ideas, narrative structures, and ways of seeing the world, which in turn stimulates their own creative capacities. Writers, poets and artists often draw inspiration from the literature they consume, using it as a jumping off point for their own artistic endeavours.

~~The Poetry~~  
The poetry of Faiz Ahmad

Faiz" continues to inspire artists and activists, particularly for his ability to blend romance with revolutionary fervor. Faiz's words, which have become synonymous with resistance and hope, encourage creative expression in times of political and social repression.

Even in everyday life, literature encourages people to think creatively, whether they are writing, problem-solving or simply viewing the world in new and imaginative ways. In an era where innovation is prized, the ability to think creatively is more valuable than ever, making literature an essential component of both personal and professional growth.

In conclusion, literature is far from being a mere luxury; it is a fundamental component of human life that fosters personal growth, nurtures empathy, preserves culture and history, promotes critical thinking and stimulates creativity. Pakistani literature, with its rich tapestry of poets, novelists, and thinkers, serves as a prime example of the transformational power of the written word. Whether it is the philosophical musings of Iqbal, the revolutionary spirit of Faiz, or the socio-political critique of Manto, literature in Pakistan remains a crucial force in shaping the moral, intellectual and emotional landscape of the nation.