

**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 doers poet?

**Answer 'a':**

Poetry is the language of imagination and passions as it provides words to all those feelings that give pleasure or pain to human mind. Therefore, poetry is the language of imagination and passion.

**Answer: 'b'**

Poetry is the universal language of heart because it provides medium for communication with nature and oneself. Moreover, poetry is also used to express fear, hope, love and hatred. That's why poetry is called ~~the~~ universal.

**Answer: 'c'**

The differences between history and poetry are as follows; while history is the study of grave, means past things, poetry is a grave which dig out things lying deeper and

wider. Moreover, history is the epitome of past happenings related to different places and time. However, poetry is the ~~that~~ appropriate language of all that feelings and thoughts that cross one's mind.

Answer "d"

"man is a poetical animal" ~~it~~ <sup>distinguishes</sup> means what distinguishes human from the beast is poetry. <sup>b</sup> ~~Because~~, poetry is something that refines our whole being.

Answer "e"

Some of the actions which Hazlitt calls poetry and its does poet are following: when a child plays hide and seek, and repeats some story then a child is poet and his actions are poetry.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Similarly, the boy when  
he gifts his mistress with  
garland of flowers; the countryman  
when <sup>he</sup> stops to see the rainbow;  
the miser when he hugs his  
gold etc are all poets  
and their actions are  
poetry.