

**M.A.(English) Semester - I**  
**PAPER - V**  
**( WESTERN LITERARY HISTORY - I )**

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# **REFERENCES TO E-MODULE OF THE TOPIC “ROMANTICISM”**

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# **ROMANTICISM OR ROMANTIC PERIOD**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

**“Romance” or “Romanesque” has been used in their respective languages as adjectives of praise for natural phenomena without any sexual connotation.**

**The application of the term “Romantic” in Literature first became common in German language where the circle around the Schlegel brothers began to speak of “Romantische Poesie” (romantic poetry). The period extends from 1790 to 1848 across the European continent.**

**This movement has its roots in German Sturm and Drang movement which preferred individuality, subjectivity and emotions over objective ideas and enlightenment. With this , another source of inspiration for this age has been the French Revolution in 1789.**

**This movement came as an opposition to the ideologies of the Neo-classicists. They gave primary importance to the free expression of the feelings of the artist. In a way, they opposed all the rules and regulations followed by Neo-classicists with adherence.**

**As per romantic ideology, an artist could create a true art only through the content coming straight from his imagination and if one tries to apply rules on that work then there will be artificiality in it. Art and artificiality cannot go hand in hand.**

**Major Characteristics of Romantic Age are as follows:**

**i) Freedom of Expression:**

**In this time period, artists had full freedom to express whatever point of view they wanted to. An era of total democracy focusing on beauty of individuality. No 'literary police' was present to cease the 'spontaneous overflow of powerful emotions' and 'recollection of them in the state of tranquility'.**

**ii) Supernaturalism:**

**Literary artists utilized the device of supernaturalism i.e. elements beyond the nature like ghosts, witches, angels etc., to bring various ideas to the readers. Even a new sub-genre, in fiction writing, developed in this time period i.e. Gothic Novels. Many used it for foregrounding purpose while others just to thrill others.**

### **iii) Naturalism:**

**Emile Rousseau gave the slogan “back to Nature” and this age used to the best. Nature is the best healer that anyone can ever have is the idea easily found in the creation of this time. All major poets showed Nature in various shades and roles. Nature has been presented as a friend, guide, companion , canvas of gods and also fierceful face is shown by many.**

### **iv) Interest in Ancient Greek and Roman Elements:**

**This age has always been fascinated by the medieval elements ; nostalgic about the golden literature from treasure of ancient Greek and Roman literature. Myths,symbols,themes, ideas etc. have attracted the writers to a great extent.**

### **v) Celebration of the simple life:**

**Literature of the time highlights the simplicity of life. It enjoys the day to day common occurrences. The artists believed in importance of every element taking place in life. From birth till death, each moment is a cause of celebration and every breath is a source of inspiration. This ideology is quite visible in the works throughout the period.**

### **vi) Interest in Pastoral life:**

**“God made rural, Man made urban” so Romantics followed and painted word-pictures of countryside. The art of the time enjoys the beauty, calm and composure of rural , basic and original human life.**

### **vii) Professionalism in Writing:**

**This is the time when artists , for the first time, began to take literature writing as a professional way to earn their bread. Earlier, writers and poets used to write for passion and love for writing. Now, they the range of critics and writers who made it their official career.**

### **viii) Use of common language:**

**Poets of the age did not believe in poetic diction. Earlier ages believed in the idea that literature is 'for classes' but Romantics favoured art is 'for masses'. So, they used common language which could easily be understood by the common people. This made the literature approachable.**

### **ix) Subjectivity:**

**Classics focused on descriptive aspect of literature while Romancers reflected subjective or narrative aspect. Literature mirrors the inner feelings and psychology of the artists. Auto-biographical touches are widely and vividly visible.**

### **x) Imagination:**

**Romantic period is built on the firm foundation of imagination. Artists went deep into their sub-conscious and unconscious mind exploring it to the best and surfacing with unique expressions and ideas. For them imagination is the spice in the basics of real life. It is very much required as without fiction, reality will be indigestible.**

### **xi) Opportunity To Women artists:**

**It was the first time when women writers began to write under their real names. They got free sky to fly in . Eminent writers emerged without fear of social criticism Though some like Jane Austen faced severe criticism for their blunt novel like Pride and Prejudice but not in threatening manner. This age mostly encouraged its women to create without hesitation.**

### **xii) Frequent use of Personification:**

**Poets frequently coined the literary device of personification i.e. to give human qualities to non-living things in order to convey their feelings to the readers. S.T.Coleridge in his poem "Rhime of an Ancient Mariner", describes death as a lady.**

**Romantic Age is a period that focused on its poets, writers, playwrights and critics' feelings and thought process. This era has been the time most suitable for creation of the literature. Artists found relaxed atmosphere to express what they felt and how they felt?**

**This period ,ignoring all odds , attended to the evens and paved a way for all genres to excel in their prime. It gave birth to Practical criticism and boundless approaches to expressions. One age that showcased naturalism, Platonism, supernaturalism , helenism in its best forms.**

## **POETRY:**

**This period is famous for its renowned poets of:**

### **FIRST GENERATION :**

**First generation of Romantic poets is consist of those who were fortunate enough to witness the “golden dawn” of the French Revolution in 1789. These poets were in their teen ages when the revolution broke in France. People rose against Royalty who was ignorant of troubles of common man; monarchy who asked people to eat 'cake' if they had no 'bread'.**

**Mob collapsed the prison 'La Bastille' in Paris releasing freedom fighters who fought for fraternity, equality and sovereignty. All this lured poets like William Wordsworth to go and take active part in that 'blissful moment'.**

## **Influence of American unrest before 1776:**

**American war against British coalition till 1775-76 gave a thundering effect on rulers in Great Britain. Various laws were implemented in England to avoid the striking effects reach the land. But the struggle could not be stopped from reaching the literary world and they were highly influenced by the fight. This not only influenced many but also got hailed by poets by getting place in their works and lives. Coleridge with his beloved and friends decided to move to Pennsylvania. He named this project 'Pantisocracy' means living in the lap of Nature near Susquehanna River, far away from city's hustle-bustle.**

## **A. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH:**

**BIRTH: 7 April, 1770**

**DEATH: 23 April, 1850**

**PLACE OF BIRTH: Cockermouth, Cumberland, England**

**William Wordsworth is universally acclaimed as 'Poet of Nature' as well as 'Poet of Man'. He made his debut in 1787 when his sonnet was published in "The European Magazine". In 1791, he went to France to contribute in the freedom struggle of the people. In "The Prelude", he wrote about that romantic political act that later on turned into "Reign of Terror":**

**"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,  
But to be young was very Heaven!"**

**There he fell in love with a French woman named Annette Villon but in 1792, left her with their unborn child and came back to England .This was all because he ran out of money and when he tried to return, war hindered his wishes. Wordsworth met his daughter Caroline when she was 11 years old. All this inspired him to compose a number of poems like “An Evening Walk” and “Descriptive Sketches”.**

**His inability to meet his sister Dorothy also inspired a few poems like “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey” .**

**His most celebrated work Lyrical Ballads in collaboration with his best friend Coleridge presents his style and thinking in totality.**

## **Influences:**

- i. French Revolution influenced him a lot as human massacre made him move towards Nature that came to his rescue when he was most vulnerable. Nature posed as his love, nurse, teacher and inspiration. It showed him passionate as well as destructive face of human race.**
- ii. Famous philosopher Emile Rousseau voiced in the favour of countryside, natural and original i.e Nature. He guided all to move back to rural so that they could live a peaceful life. He always said that God made us free but Man is in chains everywhere. Wordsworth followed his lead in most of his poems.**
- iii. David Hartley and his fellow psychologists influenced him widely. Hartley stated that one encounter creates links in memory which causes recurrence of events when certain stimuli hits the memory lane.**

## **Characteristics of writing:**

- i. Use of simple language is one of the basic point of his writing . he wrote in such a way that one can easily understand his ideas without much references.As he states in “Daffodils”:**

**“They stretched in never -ending line**

**Along the margin of a bay:**

**Ten thousand saw i at a glance,**

**Tossing their heads in sprightly dance”**

- i. Preference to Nature over materialism is another theme of his writing. In his poem “The World is Too Much with Us” underlines the idea.He always focused on the importance of Natural landscapes asking everyone to go for 'bad bargain'.**

**iii. Imagination is used by him to make common things look strange and beautiful. In his famous "Intimation Ode" It seems to him as everything common is :**

**"appareled in Celestial Light"**

**iv. Poet of Nature who always believed in the sublime healing power of Mother Nature. For him, she is everything , a guide, a philosopher, a peer , a rescuer as in his 'Lucy Poems'.**

**v. Subjectivity is the keynote of his poems. He expresses his feelings, thoughts through his poems like in "Ode :Intimation of Immortality". He never hesitated in expressing even the most personal feelings and ideas.**

**vi. Pantheism and Mysticism is present in almost all of his poems. He felt that there is a spiritual power present in all natural objects. He states that we move at Three levels,**

**a) at physical level where we enjoy what we see like in our childhood. we only see through eyes;**

**b) at sensual level where we begin to utilize our senses and start looking beyond physicality;**

**c) at spiritual level, we reach at this point when we get enough experiences in life and we are open to all sort of acceptance. At this point we are flexible enough to share power or energy of spiritualism with Nature.**

**vii. Poet of Mankind who served as nanny for the infants of laborers when they worked for 18 hours straight. His experiences with human beings are visible in his poems like "Michael". He is a poet who has read human expressions as skilfully as he read Nature. He loved human kind and devoted himself in their welfare as well.**

**"Child is the father of man"**

**vii. Autobiographical references are easily traceable in his poems. He never felt ashamed in sharing his most personal ideas and experiences with his readers. He through his own life tried to show all what should be done and what should not be.**

## **B. SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE:**

**BIRTH: 2 October, 1772**

**DEATH: 25 July, 1834**

**PLACE OF BIRTH: Otter St Mary, Devon, England**

**S.T. Coleridge is famous for his use of Supernaturalism in a manner that no other literary artist has applied so far. He is the only poet who was hailed and criticized at the same time. He heralded English Romantic Movement. He is an acclaimed philosopher, lyric poet and a critic as well who suffered through his addiction to opium. His Scheme of 'Pantisocracy' and its failure led Coleridge to fall in an unwanted marriage but Wordsworth's friendship motivated him throughout.**

## **Influences:**

- i. French Revolution motivated Coleridge in his early creations. Though he did not go to France for active participation in the struggle still he showed full support through his poems “The Destruction of the Bastille”:**

**“ I see, I see! glad Liberty succeed**

**With every patriot virtue in her train!”**

- ii. German transcendentalism affected his work. They believed in the inherent goodness of people and nature; emphasizes subjective intuition over objective empiricism; that individuals are capable of generating completely original.**

## **Characteristics of Writing Style:**

- i. Supernaturalism is the most significant point in his poetry. He is the only one who never inflicted supernatural elements. In his poems, supernatural characters or things are introduced in a very natural manner.**
- ii. Use of bright colours to paint word picture as in his poem “Rhime of the Ancient Mariner”:**

**“Her lips were red**

**Her looks were free**

**Her locks were yellow as gold:**

**Her skin was white as leprosy”**

- iii. Somber and melancholic voice is regular in his poems. A tone of sadness can be listened to in most of his poems like “Dejection: An Ode”. The sadness that he had in his personal life and the pain he faced can be understood in his poems.**
- iv. Musicality in his poems that he obtained through the use of alliteration, archaic language, internal rhymes etc. A song -like quality is present there.**
- v. His conversation poems represented a form of blank verse that is more fluent and easy than that's of Milton's. The last ten lines of “Frost at Midnight” is the best example of the blank verse evolved by Coleridge. It appears to be prose but exquisitely artistic as the most complicated sonnet.**

**vi. His poems explore adult's longing for the innocence and happiness of childhood as well as longing for the idyllic pastoral life. The appropriate example is "Sonnet : To the River Otto", the interlocutor returns to a brook in his native countryside home and reflects on his fond childhood memories.**

**vii. His love and appreciation for nature is visible throughout his literary career but not in wordsworthian style. The nature mostly mirrors the mood of the poet but sometimes poet hopes to get a change in the mood via nature.**

**Coleridge renounced poetry in his thirtieth year to work for art as a critic. He tried to defend work from biased criticism at the hands of prejudiced critics.**

## **SECOND GENERATION**

**This generation was in their cradles when the French Revolution outbreak. No poet of second generation witnessed that historic event but through the poetry of First generation poets, they came in contact with the revolutionary ideas.**

**Byron, Keats and Shelley constitute this generation who unfortunately died before they could fully blossom but enriched the literary world with their unmatched talent. None of them could ever be missed when romantic age is talked about.**

## **A. LORD GORDON BYRON**

**BIRTH : 22 January, 1788**

**DEATH : 19 April, 1824**

**PLACE OF BIRTH : London, England**

**The most flamboyant and notorious of the major Romantics. A man taken as metaphor for aristocratic excesses, huge debts and innumerable love affairs. But he is more famous for his unparalleled work; a renowned satirist ;well known as “gloomy egoist”.**

**His first work Fugitive Pieces came when he was 17 years old but was recalled and burnt on a friend's advice.**

**Hours of Idleness proved to be his first proper but anonymous publication in which he criticized almost all great poets and writers of the time.**

**His next work English Bards and Scotch Reviewers upset some of his critics that they challenged him for duel. Later on it became a matter of prestige for any artist being targeted by Byron.**

**Byron's lavish lifestyle and habit of frequent traveling always kept him under debt loads. His number of affairs with women as well as men landed him in marsh of insults time to time.**

**His friendship with Shelley soothed his soul and brought a bit of change in his cynical attitude towards life and it is visible in his poem "Beppo". He died of fever.**

## **Influences**

- i. He named Alexander Pope as his mentor. A worshiper of the ideal, he never lost touch with reality; a deist and freethinker. He retained his youth a Calvinist sense of original sin; a peer of the real, he championed liberty in his works and deeds, giving money, time, energy and finally his life to the Greek war of Independence.**
- ii. To some extent, P.B. Shelley influenced Byron in his personal as well as poetic life. Though this remained visible for a trivial period of time yet he faced a phase where he was away from his typical life and viewpoints.**

## **Characteristics of His writing Style:**

- i. To Byron, Nature was a powerful complement to human emotion and civilization. He saw nature as a companion to humanity. He also recognized nature's dangerous and harsh side. In "The Prisoner of Chillon", he connects Nature to freedom while at the same time shows Nature's Potentially deadly aspects in the harsh waves that seem to threaten to flood the dungeon.**
- ii. The folly of "Love". Throughout his life, he sought the perfect object of his affections which paradoxically made him a fitful and unstable lover to many women. He idealizes them by turning them into muses who inspire their respective narratives in the first three cantos of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage"**

- iii. He was a staunch friend of the classical world who grieved what seemed to him the violation of its cultural achievements and traditions. He targeted Lord Elgin for cultural oppression after his procurement of certain marble statues from Greece to display those in England. He made him a symbol of oppression like Napoleon for political one.**
- iv. Byron saw much of his best works as description of reality as it exists. so, the subject matter of many of his poems come from history and personal experience. "Darkness" was written to reflect the mass hysteria that arose out of superstitious prophetic interpretations related to the natural disaster of a volcanic eruption.**

- v. Byron found permanence in the art created by cultures and by his own contemporaries. In fourth canto of "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" he points out how grand civilizations do fall apart but their art and literature survive. He used his poetry to demonstrate the ephemeral nature of human civilization while working on art that would survive much more than its own creator.**
- vi. He talked again and again about the day of reckoning. In his poem "Darkness" he envisions a future where earth is devoid of life and is inhabited by inhuman creatures. He insisted that oppressors and destructive leaders would face their own day of judgments.**

## **B. PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY**

**BIRTH : 4 August, 1792**

**DEATH : 8 July, 1822**

**PLACE OF BIRTH : Horsham, Sussex, England**

**P.B. Shelley is best known for his classic poems and verse dramas. One of the finest lyricist ever born in England. He was a rebel throughout his life. His rebellious nature got him expelled from Oxford University on publishing an atheist pamphlet. In 1810, his first book , a Gothic novel**

**Zastrozzi was published. Then came his first poetical**

**work in the very same year “Original Poetry by Victor and Cazire”. He eloped in 1811 with a girl of unmatched status breaking the final link with his father.**

**Though he married the girl and was blessed with a girl child in 1813 but soon he was disillusioned with his marriage and pined for more intellectual companionship. He found this in William Godwin's daughter Mary. In 1814, they eloped causing death of his first wife.**

**His friendship with Lord Byron benefited him too. He took inspiration from Byron and wrote a number of amazing poems. The poet in him began to bloom because of Byron. Like him, Shelley too travelled a lot and created most of his major works during his stay in Italy.**

**Shelley translated a great number of work done by Plato. He translated his poem "Symposium" .Shelley died by drowning while sailing back to home from a visit to Lord Byron and James Leigh Hunt.**

- i. He was highly influenced by William Wordsworth. He liked the way wordsworth presented Nature in his poems. He himself showcased Nature in her best in his poem. He found unique traits in Nature like Wordsworth.**
- ii. Lord Byron and John Keats also influenced him a lot in writing poetry. It was after being in contact with them that Shelley gave his marvellous performance in poetic composition.**
- iii. William Blake somehow shared inspiration of Christianity as both contended that the teachings and life of Jesus Christ had been misrepresented by the christian church.**

## **Characteristics of His Writing Style:**

- i. Shelley shares romantic interests in pantheism i.e. the belief that God or a divine , unifying spirit runs through everything in the universe.He demonstrates great reverence for the beauty of the Nature and feels closely connected.In “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty”, he describes this force the reason of all human joys, faith and pleasure.He also recognizes that power of Nature is not wholly positive.Nature destroys as often as it inspires or creates.**
- ii. Use of Autumn in many of his poems showing brilliant colours of the season.In “Ode to the West Wind”, violent wind emphasizes the passionate and intense nature of the poet.**

**iii. He states that his power of imagination seems to come from a stranger and more mystical place. The power of human mind is equal to the power of nature and the experience of beauty in the natural world becomes a kind of collaboration between the perceiver and the perceived.**

**iv. His interest in supernatural repeatedly appears in his works. It suggests the possibility of glimpsing a world beyond the one in which we live. The speaker in "Mont Blanc" encounters ghost and shadows of real natural objects in the cave of Poesy. His belief in such existences has been strong since his childhood. He was called mad boy by many for his beliefs.**

- v. Lyricism is a very strong point in Shelley's poetry. He has created such a grand music in his poems through words that he is counted amongst the best lyricists of his time.**
- vi. Ambiguity is another aspect of his writing which gives a unique attraction to his poems. Readers feel fascinated by some of the vague ideas which makes everyone to be vigilant while reading his works as he talks about a supreme happy spirit in "To Ab Skylark".**
- vii. He believed in space and astronomy and this belief of his gave chance to many to laugh at him. He was sure about life beyond earth and existence of other planets and lives. He was a man ahead of his time.**

## **C. JOHN KEATS**

**BIRTH : 31 October, 1795**

**DEATH : 23 February, 1821**

**PLACE OF BIRTH : Moorgate, London, England**

**Although his poems were not well received by critics during his lifetime but his reputation grew after his death. Details about his early life are scarce. He had an unstable childhood and mother's untimely death motivated him to become a doctor. It was in the spring of 1816 when he began to loose interest in medicine in favour of poetry.**

## **Influences:**

- i. Edmund Spencer's The Faerie Queene is the book that awakened the love for poetry in Keats mind and shocked him into a realization of his own imaginative and literary powers. Other books that attracted Keats attention and deepened his love for literature are Ovid's Metamorphoses; Virgil's Eclogues and Milton's Paradise Lost.**
- ii. William Shakespeare's theory of negative capability i.e. to think beyond any presupposition of a predetermined capacity of the human being.**
- iii. Hellenism i.e. the strength of finding beauty in each and every aspect of existence. In his odes and other poems, Keats has found beauty even in the decay and dirt. He found a broken urn as beautiful as colourful autumn appeared to him.**

## **Characteristics of his Writing Style:**

- i. Keats' incorporated nature into his poems. He does not generally write about nature but he uses it as a device to make his poetry romantic and gentle. He never took Nature in Wordsworthian style.**
- ii. Despite his depression, he wrote endlessly on love and nature. They are mixed with his feelings of depression and now these works are the major reason of him being remembered by literary circles.**
- iii. He wrote odes which are basically lyrical stanzas dedicated to someone or something that captures the poets interest or serves as a source of inspiration. Odes are his most distinctive poetic achievement which are a sort of lyrical meditations.**

- iv. He uses alliteration, assonance and consonance in his work to create interior rhymes and rhythms. These devices create a luscious kind of music in his works.**
- v. He always focused on inevitability of death. For him, slow acts of death occurred every day and he chronicled these small mortal occurrences. He proposed the contemplation of beauty as a way of delaying the inevitability of death.**
- vi. Sensual imagery in his works shows his belief that the five senses loosely corresponded to and connected with various types of art. "Ode on a Grecian Urn" describes the pictures on urn. All the figures are motionless, held fast and they cannot touch each other even though we can touch them by holding vessel.**

**vii. Negative capability in his works disappears the poet from it and the work itself chronicles an experience in such a way that the reader recognizes and responds to the experience without requiring the explanation of the poet.**

**viii. His interest in the ancient world is visible in his poems like "The Fall of Hyperion or Lamia" that takes place in mythical world not unlike that of classical antiquity. He borrowed figures from ancient mythology to populate poems. For him, these myths and objects have a permanence and solidity that contrast with the fleeting. In ancient cultures, he saw the possibility of permanent artistic achievement.**

## **FICTION:**

**In this time zone, a variety of novel writing prevailed as this genre was a highly unexplored area for innovators in literature. Novelists presented realism, sentimentalism, rogue, Gothic, mannerism and historical sketches from their mighty pens.**

**A number of writers both male and female opened their caskets of treasures and lavishly spent their wordy riches on the readers of the time. The readers were jewelled with the plots and stories from imaginative world with tints of reality of that time's aristocratic as well as common society.**

## **A. JANE AUSTEN**

**BIRTH : 16 December , 1775**

**DEATH : 18 July , 1817**

**PLACE OF BIRTH : Steventon Rectory , Hampshire, London .**

**She is at the top of the list of women writers in 18th century . She is recognized for her Six major novels which are an unusual blend of realism and sensibility. Her novels are acclaimed as 'Novels of Sensibility' . She received most of her education and first audience at home. Two of her novels Persuasion and Northanger Abbey were published posthumously. Her use of biting irony with her realism and social commentary have earned her great respect and importance in the research of literary scholars .**

## **INFLUENCES**

- i. Her family inspired foremost. Most of her inspiration came from her own family and from what she saw around her. Her close relationship with her sister has set basis for sisterly affection visible in her novels.**
- ii. Samuel Johnson left a deep imprint on her writing style with his witty prose and philosophy.**
- iii. Frances Burney wrote for young women and her novels depict realistic female characters like Austen's do. She has talked about women who possess feminine qualities with fully developed strong personalities.**

## **Austen's Writing Style:**

- i. Irony: It's Austen's widely exercised device. She contrasts the plain meaning of a statement with the comic, undermining the meaning of the original to create ironic disjunctions. She employs irony to foreground social hypocrisy. She particularly uses it to criticize marriage market as in Pride and Prejudice . Her use of irony exists beyond sentence formation.**
- ii. Free indirect Speech : She is renowned for this. In free indirect Speech, thoughts and speech of the characters get mixed with that of the narrator. This device is used to provide summary of certain conversations or to compress a character's thoughts.**

**iii. Language : Austen used short sentences, question and answer pairs , repartee , conversations about literature and less of narrative in her novels to bring ideas home clearly. Witty conversations between Darcy and Elizabeth is a fine example of her masterly use of her limited vocabulary.**

**iv. Realism : Though she never believed in much of geographical and physical descriptions still she managed to make readers feel that they know the locals properly. Janet Todd states “ she creates an illusion of realism in her novels partly through readerly identification with the characters and partly through her round characters.”**

- v. Autobiographical touches : Her novels are based on her limited expedition in outer world and deep observation of her family members, relationships and surroundings. She has presented these relations in her novels in various forms like fatherly love showered by Mr. Bennet on Elizabeth etc.**
- vi. Country House novels : Her novels actually accounts all the etiquette, manners, rule books that existed and were widely followed by the society at that time. Guidelines for girls to get married, the shallowness of their traditions and customs have always been strongly hit by her. She presented what happened in the drawing rooms and ball rooms of such people.**

## **A. SIR WALTER SCOTT**

**BIRTH : 15 August, 1771**

**DEATH : 21 September , 1832**

**PLACE OF BIRTH : Edinburgh, Scotland**

**He was an advocate and political person by profession but an artist by heart. He was a historical novelist , playwright and a poet who since his young age was fascinated to oral traditions of Scottish borders. As an obsessive collector of such stories , he in innovative style recorded these stories by carvings on twigs as many believed folk stories were not meant for writing down.**

## **INFLUENCES**

- i. His aunt Jenny influenced him to write. She taught him speech patterns and many of the tales and legends that characterised much of his works. His grandmother introduced him with Scottish folk lores and tales. She sowed the seed of love and attraction towards literature in the young mind of scott.**
- ii. Scottish border ballads and Gothic novels also lured him towards literature. German Romanticism is visible in his first published work The Chase and William and Helen, translation of two ballads of German Romantic Balladeer G.A,Burger.**

## **His Writing Style:**

- i. Storytelling author : He always used third person narration in his work breaking to use of first person whenever he wanted to explain something to the readers. His viewpoint is of watching an exciting drama and relaying what he sees with suitable explanation so that not even a bit of excitement is lost.**
- ii. Use of Flashback : He used disjointed flashbacks where he carries the action of group ,at a time,to a certain point then he moves back in time to bring another group into a logical position. It is like weaving different coloured threads into a particular sort of pattern.**

**iii. Historical Novels : A perfect blend of imaginary characters in an authentic historical background. He made history romantic. To those who felt it to be boring, he made it exciting. He captured the spirit of that age and used language in imitation of the time and reconstructed a past time until it became a living present. From Norman-Saxon conflict till Shakespearean characters , everything with an essence of history attracted him. He made full use of all these to create his masterpiece.**

**iv. Wordy Novels : This trait is easy to find in almost all writers of the century. The major reason of his wordiness was that mostly readers have not lived in that historical background , so its difficult to describe things clearly in economical way.**

**v. A blend of sorrow , joy , mystery and superstitions: Sir Walter Scott has always been curious by nature. For that reason its easy to find so many elements in his novels. On one hand, the reader can spot the fountains of joy and at the other end deep sadness is also available. For the sake of interest and creativity , he loved to keep things in Mystery as the title of his masterpiece navel Ivanhoe , it could be anything to anyone . To know what it exactly stands for, one must open the book and read it with full attention. His works present many beliefs not because he was a superstitious man but because he was too positive to find light in the darkness of mysticism.**