

R. K. Narayan – 50 MCQs

Biography & Background

1. R. K. Narayan was born in:

- a) Mysore
- b) Madras
- c) Coimbatore
- d) Bangalore

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2. The fictional town 'Malgudi' is best described as:

- a) A mythological place
- b) A historical town
- c) A realistic microcosm of India
- d) A colonial capital

3. R. K. Narayan belongs to which trio of Indian English writers?

- a) Narayan–Naipaul–Rushdie
- b) Narayan–Raja Rao–Mulk Raj Anand
- c) Narayan–Anand–Tagore
- d) Narayan–Desai–Seth

4. Narayan primarily wrote in:

- a) Tamil
- b) Sanskrit
- c) English
- d) Kannada

5. Which quality best defines Narayan's prose style?

- a) Ornamental
- b) Complex
- c) Simple and lucid
- d) Symbolic

Novels

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6. Narayan's first novel was:

- a) The Bachelor of Arts
- b) Swami and Friends
- c) The English Teacher
- d) Mr. Sampath

7. Swami and Friends mainly focuses on:

- a) Freedom movement
- b) Childhood and school life
- c) Gandhian philosophy
- d) Feminism

8. The Bachelor of Arts is partly:

- a) Political
- b) Mythical
- c) Autobiographical
- d) Fantastical

9. Chandran in *The Bachelor of Arts* temporarily becomes:

- a) Teacher
- b) Rebel
- c) Sanyasi
- d) Journalist

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10. The Dark Room is significant for its portrayal of:

- a) Nationalism
- b) Childhood
- c) Feminism and patriarchy
- d) Spirituality

11. The female protagonist of *The Dark Room* is:

- a) Bharati
- b) Rosie
- c) Savitri
- d) Saroja

12. Which novel is directly based on Narayan's personal tragedy?

- a) Mr. Sampath
- b) The English Teacher
- c) The Guide
- d) Waiting for the Mahatma

13. The English Teacher marks a shift from realism to:

- a) Romanticism
- b) Satire
- c) Mysticism
- d) Naturalism

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14. Mr. Sampath deals mainly with:

- a) Spirituality
- b) Journalism and cinema
- c) Freedom struggle
- d) Rural poverty

15. The Financial Expert presents the theme of:

- a) Political corruption
- b) Rise and fall due to greed
- c) Spiritual redemption
- d) Romantic idealism

16. The protagonist of *The Financial Expert* is:

- a) Raju
- b) Jagan
- c) Margayya
- d) Sampath

17. Gandhi appears as a character in:

- a) The Guide
- b) Waiting for the Mahatma
- c) Swami and Friends
- d) The Vendor of Sweets

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18. *Waiting for the Mahatma* blends politics with:

- a) Tragedy
- b) Love story
- c) Myth
- d) Comedy

19. Raju is the protagonist of:

- a) The Man-Eater of Malgudi
- b) Mr. Sampath
- c) The Guide
- d) The Vendor of Sweets

20. Raju's transformation in *The Guide* is from guide to:

- a) Politician
- b) Monk
- c) Saint-like figure
- d) Revolutionary

21. *The Guide* won which award?

- a) Booker Prize
- b) Jnanpith Award
- c) Sahitya Akademi Award
- d) Padma Vibhushan

22. *The Man-Eater of Malgudi* is based on which myth?

- a) Ravana
- b) Hiranyakashipu
- c) Bhasmasura
- d) Trishanku

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23. Vasu in *The Man-Eater of Malgudi* symbolizes:

- a) Gandhian values
- b) Colonial power
- c) Destructive modernity
- d) Spiritual purity

24. The Vendor of Sweets deals with conflict between:

- a) Husband and wife
- b) Father and son
- c) Teacher and student
- d) Rich and poor

25. Jagan in *The Vendor of Sweets* represents:

- a) Western materialism
- b) Gandhian simplicity
- c) Colonial authority
- d) Radical politics

Short Stories

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26. *Malgudi Days* is a collection of:

- a) Essays
- b) Novellas
- c) Short stories
- d) Poems

27. 'An Astrologer's Day' ends with:

- a) Tragedy
- b) Ironical twist
- c) Moral sermon
- d) Supernatural event

28. The central theme of *An Astrologer's Day* is:

- a) Colonialism
- b) Fate and irony
- c) Patriotism
- d) Social reform

29. 'A Horse and Two Goats' highlights:

- a) Religious conflict
- b) Language and cultural gap
- c) Political satire
- d) Rural poverty

30. The foreigner in *A Horse and Two Goats* is:

- a) British
- b) French
- c) American
- d) Australian

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31. Lawley Road mainly satirizes:

- a) Indian superstition
- b) Colonial mentality
- c) Women's oppression
- d) Education system

Autobiography & Other Works

32. Narayan's autobiography is titled:

- a) My Life
- b) My Story
- c) My Days
- d) My Experiments

33. My Days gives insight into Narayan's:

- a) Political ideology
- b) Personal and literary life
- c) Religious beliefs
- d) Economic views

34. Gods, Demons and Others retells stories from:

- a) Bible
- b) Greek myths
- c) Indian epics
- d) Arabian Nights

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Awards & Honours

35. Sahitya Akademi Award was given to Narayan for:

- a) Swami and Friends
- b) The Guide
- c) The English Teacher
- d) Malgudi Days

36. R. K. Narayan received Padma Bhushan in:

- a) 1958
- b) 1964
- c) 1975
- d) 1980

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37. Padma Vibhushan was awarded to Narayan in:

- a) 1990
- b) 1995
- c) 2000
- d) 2001

Style, Themes & Technique

38. Narayan's realism is best described as:

- a) Harsh and militant
- b) Psychological realism
- c) Gentle and comic
- d) Naturalistic

39. Narayan's humour is mainly:

- a) Bitter satire
- b) Tragic irony
- c) Gentle irony
- d) Sarcasm

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40. Which is NOT a theme of Narayan?

- a) Middle-class life
- b) Spiritual ambiguity
- c) Violent revolution
- d) Tradition vs modernity

41. Narayan's characters are generally:

- a) Heroic
- b) Ordinary people
- c) Mythical
- d) Aristocratic

42. Malgudi functions as:

- a) Mere background
- b) Symbolic wasteland
- c) Living social organism
- d) Political center

43. Narayan's treatment of women is best seen in:

- a) Swami and Friends
- b) The Dark Room
- c) The Guide
- d) Mr. Sampath

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44. Narayan's narrative tone is usually:

- a) Angry
- b) Detached and sympathetic
- c) Preachy
- d) Aggressive

45. Which novel shows Gandhian ideology most clearly?

- a) The Guide
- b) Waiting for the Mahatma
- c) The Vendor of Sweets
- d) Swami and Friends

Miscellaneous / Tricky

46. R. K. Narayan died in:

- a) 1999
- b) 2000
- c) 2001
- d) 2002

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47. Narayan's fiction is least concerned with:

- a) Human weakness
- b) Moral dilemmas
- c) Class struggle ideology
- d) Everyday life

48. Which novel was adapted into a famous Hindi film?

- a) Mr. Sampath
- b) The Guide
- c) Swami and Friends
- d) The Financial Expert

49. Narayan's English is often called:

- a) Queen's English
- b) American English
- c) Indianized English
- d) Classical English



50. R. K. Narayan is best described as:

- a) Revolutionary writer
- b) Propagandist
- c) Chronicler of Indian life
- d) Experimental modernist

Answer Key

1. b

2. c

3. b

4. c

5. c

6. b

7. b

8. c

9. c

10. c

11. c

12. b

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13. c

14. b

15. b

16. c

17. b

18. b

19. c

20. c

21. c

22. c

23. c

24. b

25. b

26. c

27. b

28. b

29. b

30. c

31. b

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32. c

33. b

34. c

35. b

36. b

37. c

38. c

39. c

40. c

41. b

42. c

43. b

44. b

45. b

46. c

47. c

48. b

49. c

50. c

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