

 **MCQs on *The Second Coming* – W. B. Yeats**

**1. "The Second Coming" was first published in:**

- A. 1914
- B. 1916
- C. 1919
- D. 1921

**2. The poem was first published in the magazine:**

- A. The Criterion
- B. The Dial
- C. Blackwood's Magazine
- D. The Spectator

**3. The line "Turning and turning in the widening gyre" refers to:**

- A. Natural disaster
- B. Yeats's theory of historical cycles
- C. Christian resurrection
- D. War strategy

**4. "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold" suggests:**

- A. Political stability
- B. Moral and social chaos
- C. Religious unity
- D. Personal grief

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**5. The “falcon” and “falconer” symbolize:**

- A. Nature and man
- B. Christ and God
- C. Human civilization and controlling authority
- D. War and peace

**6. “The blood-dimmed tide is loosed” is an image of:**

- A. Revolution and violence
- B. Natural flood
- C. Industrial growth
- D. Religious awakening

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**7. The poem reflects the atmosphere after:**

- A. French Revolution
- B. Russian Revolution
- C. First World War
- D. Second World War

**8. The “Spiritus Mundi” refers to:**

- A. Personal imagination
- B. World spirit / collective unconscious
- C. Christian Trinity
- D. Greek mythology only

**9. The “rough beast” is best interpreted as:**

- A. Christ returning
- B. Anti-Christ figure
- C. Napoleon
- D. Yeats himself

**10. “Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born” implies:**

- A. Hopeful rebirth
- B. Violent new era
- C. Peaceful revolution
- D. Return of democracy

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**11. The structure of the poem is:**

- A. Sonnet
- B. Ballad
- C. Two uneven stanzas in free verse
- D. Dramatic monologue

**12. The dominant tone of the poem is:**

- A. Romantic optimism
- B. Satirical
- C. Apocalyptic and prophetic
- D. Humorous

**13. Yeats's concept of "gyres" is explained fully in his book:**

- A. The Celtic Twilight
- B. A Vision
- C. Responsibilities
- D. The Tower

**14. The "ceremony of innocence is drowned" suggests:**

- A. Celebration
- B. Loss of purity and moral order
- C. Religious ritual
- D. Political reform

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**15. Which literary device is prominent in "Surely some revelation is at hand"?**

- A. Irony
- B. Alliteration
- C. Symbolism
- D. Euphemism

**16. The poem blends which two major traditions?**

- A. Romanticism and Realism
- B. Modernism and Symbolism
- C. Classicism and Romanticism
- D. Naturalism and Realism

**17. The rough beast has the body of a lion and the head of a:**

- A. Dragon
- B. Eagle
- C. Man
- D. Sphinx

**18. The poem mainly deals with:**

- A. Personal love
- B. Political satire
- C. Cyclical theory of history and impending doom
- D. Nature description

**19. The phrase "The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity" reflects:**

- A. Political leadership crisis
- B. Moral inversion of society
- C. Religious reform
- D. Economic depression

**20. The overall message of the poem is:**

- A. Christ's hopeful return
- B. Fear of destructive new epoch
- C. Celebration of modernity
- D. Praise of war

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## Answer Key

1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B

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11. C

12. C

13. B

14. B

15. C

16. B

17. D

18. C

19. B

20. B

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