Exercises page 299

Ex. 1:

Discuss. What is the meaning of “compromise”? Why do you think it is related to the Victorian Age?

A compromise may be an agreement that satisfies different, most likely opposite or contrasting, ideas. Victorian Age had both positive and negative  aspects, consequences or developments.

Ex. 3:

Complete the table with the correct word.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Noun  | Adjective |
| stability | stable |
| duty | dutiful |
| respectability | respectable |
| comfort | comfortable |
| charity | charitable |
| patriarchy | patriarch |
| chastity | chaste |
| prudery | prudish |

Ex. 4: For questions 1-10, read the text. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

The Victorian Age was a complex and contradictory era: on the one hand, it was an age of progress, **stability** and great social reforms; on the other, it was also characterized by poverty, injustice and social unrest.

The Victorians were great **moralists**: they faced a large number of problems on such a scale, that they felt obliged to support certain values which offered solutions or escapes. Thus they promoted a code of values that reflected the world as they wanted it to be, not as it really was, based on **dutiful**, hard work, respectability and charity. These values were refined by the upper and middle classes, who had political and economic power, but they were of equal application to all strata of  society.

In fact, one of the most important notions throughout the 19th century was the need to work hard. The idea of being **respectable** distinguished the middle from the lower class. Respectability was a mixture of both morality and hypocrisy, severity and conformity to social standards. It implied the possession of good manners, the **ownership** of a **comfortable** house with servants and a carriage, regular attendance at Church, and **charitable** activity. Philanthropy was a widespread phenomenon; it addressed itself to every kind of poverty, to “stray children, fallen women and **drunk** men” and absorbed the energies of thousands of Victorians, large numbers of whom were women.

Middle-class ideals dominated Victorian family life. The family was a **patriarchal** unit where the husband represented authority and the key role of women concerned the education of children and the managing of the house. Victorian society was deeply concerned with female chastity, and single women with a child suffered the worst of society’s punishments: they were emarginated as “fallen women”. Sexuality was generally repressed in its public and private forms, and being **prudish** in its most extreme manifestations led to the denunciation of nudity in art and the rejection of words with a sexual connotation from everyday vocabulary.

Ex. 5:

Answer the questions about the text.

1. Why did the Victorians feel forced to promote a strict code of values?

Values were necessary as a point of reference in difficult or complex situations.

2. Which social class refined this code?

It was refined by upper and middle classes, but applied to all social classes.

3. What did the Victorian code of values consist of? In your analysis consider the following concepts:

* Respectability;
* Work;
* Family;
* Sex.

The Victorian code of values was quite strict and very little open-minded: respectability was the criteria to distinguish social classes; as for work, people were supposed to work hard and respect their own duties; the family was based on hierarchical relationships with the husband/father at the top, while women had to take care of the children and the house; sexuality was a taboo subject and was generally repressed, even in language.

4. What is the meaning of the word “compromise” when applied to the Victorian way of life?

The compromise has to do with the both positive and negative aspects brought by the Victorian Era.

Exercises page 300

Ex.1

1. Why was there a communion of interest between writers and readers during the Victorian age?

The reason of a communion of interest between writers and readers during the Victorian age was the enormous growth in the middle classes, who were avid consumers of literature.

1. How were lots of works published?
2. What did novelists want to reflect?

Novelists aimed at reflecting the social changes that had been progress for a long time, such as the Industrial Revolution, the struggle for democracy and the growth of towns.

1. How did they depict society?

They depicted society as they saw it.

1. How many kinds of Victorians novels do you know?

I know : Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens and Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

1. What are the distinctive features of the Victoria novel?

The main features are:

* The voice of the omniscient narrator provided a comment on the plot.
* The setting chosen by most Victorian novelists was the city (main symbol of industrial civilisations).
* The plot was long and often complicated by subplot.
* Writers concentrated on the creation of characters and thus achieved deeper analysis of the character’s inner life.
* Retribution and punishment were to be found in the final chapter.

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1. Constitutional monarchy
2. Imperialist expansion
3. Policy development
4. Social reforms
5. Political parties
6. Repeal
7. Land interests
8. Right to vote
9. Trade routes

Ex. 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Noun  | Adjective |
| stability | stable |
| duty | dutiful |
| respectability | respectable |
| comfort | comfortable |
| charity | charitable |
| patriarchy | Patriarch |
| authority | Authoritarian/authoritative |
| chastity | chaste |
| prudery | prudish |

Ex.3

* 1837: Began the Victoria age
* 1838: Victoria becomes queen
* 1842: Copyright Act
* 1843:
* 1847: Ten Hours Act
* 1851:The Common Lodging Houses Act and Labouring Classes Lodging Houses Act
* 1853-1856: Crimean War
* 1861:

Ex.5

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False🡪 the two main political parties were the Liberals and the Conservatives
7. True
8. False 🡪 The Hygienic conditions in Victorian towns got better and better.

Ex. 6

1. There was a communion of interests between writers and readers because writers and their readers.
2. Lots of works were published in instalments in the pages of periodicals.
3. Novelists wanted to reflect the social changes.
4. The narrator was omniscient.
5. The final chapter usually...
6. The setting was the city.
7. The writer were interested in the creation of the characters.

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Ex.1

Queen = a female sovereign.

Empress = An empress is like a queen. Also, just as a queen is the wife of a king, an empress might be the wife of an emperor, meaning she's not the ruler of the country but just married to the ruler.