

Poem – 2 Night Mail by W.H. Auden

BISE Past Papers:

(Fs-8,9,11,12,13,14,Gr-12,14,15,16,17,18, Sg-12,13,16,17, Lr-13,14,16,18, Rw-13,14,16,17, Sw-13,14,18) very important *****



This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,
Bringing the cheque and the postal order,
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb,
The gradient's against her, but she's on time.
Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder,
Shovelling white steam over her shoulder,

Snorting noisily, she passes
Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.
Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.

Sheepdogs cannot turn her course;
They slumber on with paws across.
In the farm she passes; no one wakes,
But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.

ABOUT THE POET:

Wystan Hugh Auden was an English-American poet, author and playwright. At the age of 13 he started to write poems in school time. He graduated (English Literature) from Oxford in 1928, and that same year, his collection of poems was privately printed. He taught in England and Scotland. He was the professor of poetry in Oxford University. His poetry won fame in political and social circles. Auden showed a deep interest in language and metaphor, satire and parody which are often dazzling and sometimes cruel.

Born: W.H. Auden was born on February 21, 1907

Died: He was died in Vienna, Austria, on September 29, 1973.

BACKGROUND:

The poem "Night Mail" is a tribute to the services of the postal department. It was written in 1936 to accompany the documentary film of the same title. The film finishes with a section where movement, image, sound, and verse combine to explore the sense of what this service means in terms of personal feelings and issues of the community. The film concerned a London, Midland, and Scottish Railway (LMS) mail train traveling from London to Scotland. Auden's poem was read toward the end of the film, set to music by Benjamin Britten. The verses were chopped and changed to fit the film. The basic objective of the film was to reveal how the train would distribute the mail in the past.

Here, the fundamental intent of the poem is to peep into the past remembering the postage system. The poem follows the distribution of mail by train in the 1930s, focusing on the so-called Postal Special Train, a train dedicated only to carry the post and with no members of the public.

POEM DASHBOARD:

MAIN IDEA:

A man has to continue his work; no one bothers for others because everyone is busy and concerned with his own life and interests. Regardless of problems, we should keep on working just like 'Night Mail'.

THEME:

"Night mails" is a spoken commentary that describes how the postage service works. The poem is a tribute to the services of the postal department. Night Mail does not discriminate between the rich and the poor and serves equally at the same time. It connects the people not only living in different parts of the country but also from the other side of the border. It is very punctual and regular in its duty. It is never late. Whatever the conditions are, it does its job actively and regularly.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

"Night mails" is a spoken commentary that describes the traits of a night mail that brings various types of postal materials for every type of person. It passes through various fields, meadows facing difficulties to reach its destiny.

The train "Night Mail" is personified as a calm, efficient, and kind being. It portrays the daily activities of the postal staff on a human scale. Whatever the weather is, it does its job actively and regularly. Here the poet explains the different times of a man's life when he has to face hardships. Whatever the conditions are man has to perform his duties regularly, punctually, and earnestly which results in success.

The Night Mail carries mail for people living in different villages, towns and cities. It is welcomed everywhere as it does not create any problem for anyone anywhere. The poet here mentions the goodness to others.

The train is a nonliving thing but it is compared to the human quality that is called personification. Night Mail does not disturb the life of the farms. The birds just notice her by turning their heads and keep sitting in their nests. The sheepdogs do not bother to look, bark or run after her. Nobody awakes from sleep but only a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

The poet wants to make us realize that a man has to continue his work; no one bothers for others because everyone is busy and concerned with his own life and interests.

STYLISTICS ANALYSIS:

- ✓ The poem, 'Night Mail' is a quatern, consisting of **16 lines** and is grouped into four stanzas. The whole poem is just four sentences, broken into four stanzas.

Rhyme scheme of the poem is "AABB" in first , "CCAA" in second stanza, "DDEE" in third stanza and "FFGG" in fourth stanza. The arrangement of rhymes creates the rhythm of a running train that is A B C D E F G.

- End rhyme of first stanza is "AABB"
border - order A
poor - door B
 - End rhyme of second stanza is "CCAA"
climb - time C
boulder - shoulder A
 - End rhyme of third stanza is "DDEE"
passes - grasses D
approaches - coaches E
 - End rhyme of fourth stanza is "FFGG"
course - across F
wakes - shakes G
- ✓ **Vocabulary** of the poem is easily and **understandable**.
 ✓ The poet utilizes a rich amount of gerunds, verbs and nouns in the poem.
 ✓ In **semantic deviations** the poet peeps into the past to remember the physicality of getting letters.

POETIC DEVICES:**TITLE OF THE POEM:**

Title, "Night Mail" describes the journey of the night mail train which travels at night and brings various types of postal materials for every type of people.

PERSONA:

"Night Mail" poem is written in a third person perspective. W.H. Auden is the 3rd person from the very beginning of the narration.

TONE:

Tone gives the answers of questions such as , What is the speaker's mood? Is the speaker angry, sad, happy, cynical? How do you know? An appreciative tone covers the atmosphere of the poem.

IMAGERY:

Imagery is a figure of speech in which the writer using words creates an image or a scene that appeals to our five senses.

VISUAL IMAGERY:

In this poem, the poet has sketched the path of a coach called Night Mail. The poet narrates the story of her travel through various places and the attitude of birds, dogs, sheep etc on her arrival.

ATMOSPHERE:

Words like 'crossing the Border , cheques , postal order, the rich, the poor , the corner, next door , on time , cotton , grass , moorland boulder , snorting , birds turn their heads , a jug in a bedroom gently shakes' make a natural atmosphere.

REPETITION:

The repetition of definite article 'the' depicts excessive use of nouns.
 'the' is used 13 times and pronouns 'she and her' are repeated 4 times

PERSONIFICATION:

According to pragmatic analysis, words like 'crossing the border, her shoulder, snorting noisily, she passes, she approaches, and her course' show human and animal traits so Night Mail is personified. Pronouns "she, her" confirm the personification touch.

JUXTAPOSITION:

Contrast is the heart touching aspect of the poem, the juxtaposition of 'border' , corner, next door, steady climb , moorland, bedroom' are words which show reality of routine works.

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS:

The use of gerunds 'bringing, pulling, shoveling, snorting' creates working environment of somebody or someone in the poem.

SOUND DEVICES:

Sound devices, also known as musical devices, are resources which the poets use to make the poetry a special form of art. Poets use sound devices to create auditory imagery for their readers. Sound devices are: alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhyme, onomatopoeia, repetition cacophony and many more. Sound devices which are used in "Night Mail" are as follows:

Assonance: Repetition of vowels sounds is called assonance.

Examples: i, e, o in 'This is the Night Mail crossing the Border'

End rhyme: Rhyming words at the end of at least 2 lines is termed as end-rhyme. This poem has different end- rhymes. For examples;

der in: 'This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,
Bringing the cheques and the postal order,

akes in: In the farm she passes, no one wakes,
But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.

Meter: meter / rhythm-- the rhythmic pattern of syllables in a line is called meter. Meter in the poem is 'irregular meter e.g. (=/= first section)

Reading Notes:

Lexis Textual meanings	use	Paraphrase & Urdu Translation
mail (n): posts, postal system ڈاک، ڈاک کا نظام border (n) : boundary, edge, سرحد، کنارہ	imagery	This is the Night Mail crossing the Border, The Night Mail is crossing the border line. یہ نائٹ میل (ڈاک گاڑی) ہے، سرحد عبور کرتی ہوئی،
postal order: money exchange		Bringing the cheque and the postal order, It carries cheques and postal orders, چیک اور پوسٹل آرڈر لیے،
		Letters for the rich, letters for the poor, It also contains letters for the rich and the poor. اس میں امیروں کے لیے خط ہیں، غریبوں کے لیے بھی خط،
corner (n): edge کونا، کنارہ next door (n): neighbour پڑوسی	juxtaposition	The shop at the corner, the girl next door. There are letters for the corner shop and the girl living in its neighborhood. کونے والی دکان کے لیے خط، دکان کے پڑوس میں رہنے والی لڑکی کے لیے بھی خط ہیں۔
pull up (ph.v): go up چڑھائی steady (adj): even , continuous مسلسل climb (n): ascend, clamber چڑھائی		Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb, It passes through the continuous ascent of Beattock, 'بی ٹاک' کی چڑھائی چڑھتی ہوئی، جو ایک مسلسل چڑھائی ہے،

gradient (n): hurdles , slope, rise, hill چڑھائی، ڈھلوان against : opposite مخالف		The gradient's against her, but she's on time. It has climbs in front of it but it always arrives on time, اس کے سامنے چڑھائی بھی ہوتی لیکن یہ ہمیشہ وقت پر پہنچتی ہے،
moorland (n): upload, plain, highland ویران علاقہ، دشت، اجاڑ پن meadow: (n) pasture, uncultivated میدان، چراگاہ boulder(n): rock, stone پتھر	imagery	Past cotton-grass and moorland boulder, It passes through lush cotton fields and large stones in the plains, یہ کپاس کے سرسبز کھیتوں اور دشت کے گھسے ہوئے بڑے بڑے پتھروں پر سی گزرتی ہے،
shovel (v): eject, give out اگنا، خارج کرنا steam (n): vapor , mist دھواں، بھاپ shoulder (n) کندھے، کنارے	hovelling: gerund her shoulder: personified	Shovelling white steam over her shoulder, Blowing white smoke from its engine. اپنے کندھے کے اوپر سے سفید بھاپ اڑاتے ہوئے۔
snort (n,v): grunting ,whistle, scream, sniff خراٹے لینا، سیٹی بجانا، ہارن بجانا، پاپاں کرنا noisily (adv): loudly شور pass (v): overtake, cross , get ahead گزرنا	gerund & personified: snorting	Snorting noisily, she passes It passes by making noises and honking شور مچاتی، خراٹے لیتے ہوئے وہ گزر جاتی ہے
silent(adj): quiet, still, soundless خاموش silent miles (n) long distance لمبا سفر		Silent miles of wind-bent grasses. Traveling quietly for miles, through meadows. میلوں کا خاموش سفر طے کرتے ہوئے، ہوا سے جھکے ہوئے گھاس کے میدانوں سے۔
approach (v): come near , advance , arrive, reach آنا، پہنچنا		Birds turn their heads as she approaches, As soon as it arrives, the birds just look around, جو نہی وہ پہنچتی ہے، پرندے (حیرت سے) سر گھما کر،
stare (v): gaze, watch, ogle , look intently گھورنا، حیرت سے دیکھنا blank-faced (adj): passionless , empty, vacant خالی coach (n): carriage, wagon، بوگی، ڈبے	imagery	Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches. Sitting in the bushes they only stare at its passengerless bogies. جھاڑیوں پر (بیٹھے ہوئے وہ) گھورتے ہیں، اس (ڈاک گاڑی) کے خالی ڈبوں کو۔
sheepdog(n): guards محافظ	imagery	Sheepdogs cannot turn her course; Sheepdogs can't change its direction, بھیڑوں کے محافظ کتے اس کا راستہ نہیں بدل سکتے،

slumber (v): sleep , nap, doze سوتا		<i>They slumber on with paws across.</i> So they sleep with their claws spread. (اس لیے) وہ اپنے پنجے پھیلائے سوئے رہتے ہیں۔
paw (n): foot, pad پاؤں، پد		
across (prep): پھیلا کر		
wake (v): get up, awake, rise جاگنا، اگھٹنا		<i>In the farm she passes; no one wakes,</i> When it passes by the field, no one wakes up. جب وہ کھیت کے پاس سے گزرتی ہے تو کوئی بھی نہیں جاگتا،
gently (adv): softly, lightly, kindly معمولی		<i>But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.</i> But in the bedroom, there is a slight vibration of the jug. لیکن بیڈروم (رکھے ہوئے) جگ میں ہلکی سی لرزش پیدا ہوتی ہے۔
shake (v): tremble, shudder, vibrate لرزش، جمبش		







TEXTUAL & CONTEXTUAL EXPLANATIONS

Contextual evidence refers to information about whether or not a strategy “fits” with the context in which it is.

Contextual meanings (reader's perception)/ Stylistic Devices

		
cheque (n) bank cheque , postal order (n): money exchange		
		
letter (n) correspondence خط corner (n): edge کونہ, کنارہ next door (n): neighbour پڑوسی		
		
the poor and the rich		
		
Beattock Railway Station in 1961 Beattock was one of the most iconic stations in the history of British railways. Between 1881 and 1964, Beattock was the junction in Scotland. It lies on the River Annan. Beattock station is a Tunnel. Steam locomotives were on standby, 24 hours a day, to help push heavy trains up the ten miles to Beattock Summit.		

 <p>pull up (ph.v): go up, چڑھائی چڑھنا climb (n): ascend, clamber چڑھائی against : opposite مخالف</p>	 <p>steady (adj): continuous مسلسل gradient (n): hurdles , slope, rise, hill چڑھائی، ڈھلوان</p>
 <p>moorland (n) دشت، اجاڑ پن، ویران علاقہ</p>	 <p>boulder (n) گھسا ہوا پتھر، ریلوے ٹریک پر پڑے پتھر گھس جاتے ہیں</p>
 <p>shovel (v): eject, give out کرنا، دھواں چھوڑنا اگنا، خارج</p>	 <p>snort (n,v): grunting ,whistle, scream, sniff خرائے لینا، سیٹی بجانا، ہارن بجانا، پاں پاں کرنا</p>
 <p>stare (v) حیرت سے دیکھنا، گھورنا</p>	
 <p>cotton-grass (n) سرسبز کھیت، کپاس نما کھاس</p>	 <p>wind bent grass ہواسے جھکی ہوئی گھاس</p>

 <p>blank-faced (adj) مسافروں کے بغیر ڈبے</p>	
 <p>sheepdog (n) بھیڑوں کا رکھوالا کتا</p>	 <p>paws (n) پنجے</p>
 <p>slumber (v): sleep</p>	 <p>course (n) راستہ، ٹریک</p>

MCQs (Synonyms & Poem Comprehension)

Paper Q.No.1

MCQs No. i-xv (3 synonyms & 2 comprehension)

5 marks

Note: Possible answers are given to each statement Tick the correct one. * BOLD are very important

Note: Over-writing, Cutting, Using ink- remover or whitener will result in loss of marks.

Sr.	Questions	Answers			
		A	B	C	D
1.	This is the Night Mail crossing the Border .	<u>boundary</u>	bound	march	area
2.	This is the Night Mail <u>crossing</u> the Border.	boundary	line	<u>journey</u>	passenger
3.	Bringing the cheques and the <u>postal order</u> .	letter	order	<u>money exchange</u>	money
4.	The shop at the <u>corner</u> , the girl next door.	stand	<u>bend</u>	enter	stand
5.	Past cotton grass and <u>moorland</u> boulder.	barren	cliff	<u>upland</u>	lowland
6.	<u>Past</u> cotton grass and moorland boulder.	from	above	<u>beyond</u>	along
7.	Past cotton grass and moorland <u>boulder</u> .	<u>stone</u>	meadow	pasture	grass

8.	Shovelling white steam over her shoulder.	running	trembling	<u>throwing</u>	taking
9.	Shovelling white <u>steam</u> over her shoulder.	smoke	<u>vapor</u>	dust	water
10.	<u>Snorting</u> noisily, she passes.	running	<u>grunting</u>	pressing	pulling
11.	Snorting noisily, she <u>passes</u> .	stops	starts	<u>goes</u>	carries
12.	They <u>slumber</u> on with paws across.	<u>sleep</u>	awake	enjoy	buy
13.	Snorting noisily, she <u>passes</u> .	<u>crosses</u>	stops	pulls	pushes
14.	In the farm she passes, no one <u>wakes</u> .	<u>rises</u>	sleeps	snorts	moves
15.	Snorting <u>noisily</u> , she passes	silently	gently	<u>loudly</u>	slowly
16.	<u>Stare</u> from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.	<u>gaze</u>	rise	sleep	run
17.	Stare from bushes at her <u>blank-faced</u> coaches.	attractive	ugly	<u>passionless</u>	smiling
18.	Pulling up Beattock, a steady <u>climb</u> .	route	track	boundary	<u>clamber</u>
19.	Pulling up Beattock, a <u>steady</u> climb.	<u>stable</u>	gentle	fast	low
20.	<u>Pulling</u> up Beattock, a steady climb.	<u>dragging</u>	pulling	pushing	moving
21.	Pulling up Beattock, a <u>steady</u> climb.	high	uneven	simple	<u>continuous</u>
22.	The gradient's against her, but she's on time.	paws	pasture	<u>hurdles</u>	moorland
23.	But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.	runs	<u>shudders</u>	slips	fills
24.	Sheepdogs cannot turn her course.	<u>route</u>	speed	root	job
25.	Stare from bushes at her blank-faced <u>coaches</u> .	truck	bus	rickshaw	<u>wagon</u>
26.	The Night Mail reaches...	before time	late	early	<u>on time</u>
27.	The Night Mail is written by ...	<u>W.H. Davies</u>	Shelly	Eliot	W.H. Auden
28.	Pulling up Beattock, a steady...	run	down	<u>climb</u>	descent
29.	Pulling up <u>Beattock</u> , a steady climb.	<u>railway station</u>	airport	bus station	dry port
30.	Night Mail is a/an	express train	passenger train	<u>mail train</u>	passenger and mail train
31.	This is the Night Mail crossing the	bridge	river	station	<u>border</u>
32.	The Night Mail approaches	in time	<u>on time</u>	before time	late

33.	What type of letter the Night Mail brings for the girl next door?	business letter	postal order	<u>love letter</u>	job letter
34.	Who cannot turn her course?	cats	hunters	sheep	<u>sheepdogs</u>
35.	They <u>slumber</u> on with paws across.	wander	<u>sleep</u>	bark	chase

MCQs KEY:

1	boundary	2	journey	3	money exchange	4	bend	5	upland
6	beyond	7	stone	8	throwing	9	vapor	10	grunting
11	goes	12	sleep	13	crosses	14	rises	15	loudly
16	gaze	17	passionless	18	clamber	19	stable	20	dragging
21	continuous	22	hurdles	23	shudders	24	route	25	wagon
26	on time	27	W.H. Davies	28	climb	29	railway station	30	mail train
31	border	32	on time	33	love letter	34	sheepdogs	35	sleep

STANZA EXPLANATION**Paper Q.No.7 (a) Explain the following lines with reference to the context. 5 marks****Reference:** (1 marks= Poem name + Poet name)

These lines have been taken from the poem, "Night Mail" written by W.H Auden.

Context: (1 mark= brief theme of the poem, 2-3 sentences)

The poem "Night Mail" is a tribute to the services of the postal department. Night Mail does not discriminate between the rich and the poor and serves equally at the same time. It connects the people not only of the country but also from the other side of the border. It is very punctual and regular in its duty. It is never late. Whatever the conditions are, it performs its job actively and regularly.

Lines: 1-4 (Sw-13, Fs-8, Gr-15)

This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,
 Bringing the cheques and the postal order,
 Letters for the rich, letters for the poor,
 The shop at the corner, the girl next door.

Explanation: (3 marks= concise and relevant explanation, 5-7 sentences, concluding remarks of the moral lesson)

In these lines, the poet describes the arrival of "Night Mail" which travels at night and brings various types of postal materials. The poet says that it is crossing the borders of the country (from London to Scotland). It is entering the country with a lot of letters, cheques, postal orders, and other posts. The train carries letters for the rich and poor people. It also brings letters for the shop which is located at the corner. It brings letters for the girl next door.

The poet wants to say that Night Mail brings letters for the people of every walk of life without any discrimination.

Lines: 5 - 8 (Sw-13, Fs-8, Gr-15)

Pulling up Beattock, a steady climb,
 The gradient's against her, but she's on time,
 Past cotton grass and moorland boulder,
 Shovelling white steam over her shoulder.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet describes the journey of Night Mail through different types of areas and places. The train is pulling its cars towards high areas and climbing the hills at a steady speed. In spite of obstacles and hurdles in her way, she reaches on time. These lines reflect the importance of time and schedule. She does not waste a moment and efficiently keeps on with her journey. She passes through cotton fields, meadows, and grassy fields. She uses coal to get power. That is why she throws white smoke across her shoulders.

The poet wants to say that regardless of problems we should keep on working just like 'Night Mail'.

Lines: 9-12 (Rw-17, Gr-17)

Snorting noisily, she passes
 Silent miles of wind-bent grasses.
 Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
 Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet keeps on describing the journey of the Night Mail. She moves with determination. She crosses the miles of grassy areas. She whistles and makes a noise while passing by wind-bent grasses. She makes a noise telling everyone about her arrival.

On arrival of the Night Mail, the birds just notice her by turning their heads and peeping through the bushes. They keep sitting in their nests. They are not afraid at all so show no

reaction. The poet has used the term blank-faced, to show that the coaches were without passengers.

Lines: 13-16 (Sg-12, Gr-18, Lr-16)
 Sheepdogs cannot turn her course,
 They slumber on with paws across.
 In the farm she passes, no one wakes,
 But a jug in a bedroom gently shakes.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet describes the reaction of sheepdogs and people on the arrival of Night Mail. The sheepdogs do not bother to look at the train when she passes. They don't care to bark or run after her because they know that they can neither change its route nor bite it. So, they show no reaction and continue to sleep putting their heads on paws. Similarly, Night Mail does not disturb the life in the farms. Nobody awakes from sleep but only a jug in the bedroom slightly vibrates.

The poet wants to say that regardless of problems we should keep on working just like 'Night Mail'. No one bothers for others because everyone is busy and concerned with his own life and interests.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Paper Q.No.3 Answer (in 3-5 lines/sentences) any FOUR (4/6) of the following questions from Book-III (Poems) 8 marks

1. **What is the meant by "Night Mail"? *******
 (Fs-13, 14, 15, Lr-10,11, Bwp-16, Sw-10,12,14, Rw-11,13,14,16, Sg-12,16,17, Mtn-11, Dgk-12, 13)
What kind of Night Mail is?
What does the Nigh Mail bring?
What does the Nigh Mail bring when it crosses the borders of different cities?
Write a brief not on the Night Mail.
 Ans. "Night Mail "is a train that travels at night and brings postal materials. It delivers letters, postal orders and cheques to everyone whether rich or poor. Whatever the conditions are, it does its job actively and regularly. It creates great noise but does not disturb the life of animals and human beings.
2. **What happens in the farm when the Night Mail passes by it? *******
 (Fs-8,Gr-110,12,17,Sg-13,Rw-13, Dgk-17, Bwp-11,14, Sw-13)
What is the effect of Night Mail on life in the farms?
How does the Night Mail affect the life in the farm?
What happens when the Night Mail passes by a farm?
Does the Night Mail disturb the life on the farm?
 Ans. The Night Mail does not disturb the life on the farms. When it passes a farm no one wakes up but a jug in a bedroom gently shakes. Turning heads the birds just notice her arrival and keep sitting in the nests. The sheepdogs do not bother to look, bark or run after her.
3. **What is the reaction of birds on the arrival of the Night Mail? *******
 (Sg-12,Bwp-10,12,Mtn-14,Rw-14,Sw-12,Fs-12,)
What is the effect of Night Mail on birds?
What is the reaction of birds when the train passes by them?
 Ans. When the Night Mail approaches, the birds just turn their heads and stare at its blank-faced coaches through the bushes. They keep sitting in their nests. They are not afraid of it and show no reaction.

4. **What is the reaction of sheepdogs on the arrival of Night Mail? *******
(Fs-9,Gr-10,12,Lr-11, 13,Rw-16)
Why do the sheepdogs continue to sleep when the Night Mail passes?
What do the sheepdogs do when the Night Mail passes?
How does sheep-dog behave on the arrival of Night Mail?
Ans. When the Night Mail arrives, the sheepdogs do not bother to look at it. They slumber on their paws. They don't bark or run after her because they know that they can neither change its route nor bite it. So, they show no reaction.
5. **How do the birds and the sheepdogs react when the Night Mail approaches?**
(Fs-12,Rw-14) ***
Ans. When the Night Mail approaches, the birds just turn their heads and stare at its blank-faced coaches through the bushes. They keep sitting in their nests.
The sheepdogs do not bother to look at it. They slumber on their paws. They don't bark or run after her. So, they show no reaction.
6. **What is meant by the 'blank-faced coaches'?**
The poet calls the coaches of the mail "blank-faced", why? (Lr-14)
Ans. 'Blank-faced' means meaningless and expressionless. The poet calls the coaches of Night Mail 'blank-faced' because they carry only postal materials. So, the term blank-faced reflects that the coaches are without passengers. It may also mean the dull and drab colour of cargo train.
7. **Why does the jug in the bedroom shake when the train passes?**
Ans. The jug in the bedroom shakes because of the vibration caused by the load and speed of the Night Mail when it passes.
8. **What is the theme of the poem "Night Mail"? *******
(Fs-11,12, Sw-11,18, Gr-14, Lr-18, Bwp-11)
What kind of feelings does the W.H. Auden create in the hearts of the readers?
What is central idea of the poem Night Mail?
Ans. The poem "Night Mail" is a tribute to the services of postal department. Night Mail does not discriminate between the rich and the poor and serves equally at the same time. It connects the people not only living in different parts of the country but also from the other side of the border. It is very punctual and regular in its duty. It is never late. Whatever the conditions are, it does its job actively and regularly.
9. **What is message of the poem 'Night Mail'?**
Ans. The poet wants to make us realize that a man has to continue his work; no one bothers for others because everyone is busy and concerned with his own life and interests.
10. **What qualities of the Night Mail have been described in the poem?(Sg-16,Sw-18)**
What is the journey like as the train crosses the border?
From where does Night Mail pass?
Ans. The journey of the Night Mail is very difficult. It passes through cotton fields, meadows, hilly and populated areas. Its way is full of ups and downs but it does not get tired and continues its journey smoothly. Whatever the conditions are, it does its job actively and regularly. It is very punctual and regular and is never late.
11. **Explain "For who can bear to feel himself forgotten?"**
The ending lines of the poem ask, "Who can bear to feel forgotten?"
Ans. Auden wants to say that his poem is a masterpiece and thought provoking, which needs readers' attention and appreciation. By nature, everyone seeks to be remembered and the poet is hopeful not to be forgotten.