

Poem
07

Times

(Ecclesiastes)

Words and Expressions

season	-	proper time	موسم - مناسب وقت
heaven	-	sky	آسمان
plant	-	Sow	بونا - کاشت کرنا
pluck up	-	reap; pick	توڑنا - کاٹنا
dance	-	rejoice	رقص کرنا - خوشی منانا
embrace	-	accept; hug	گلے ملنا - قبول کرنا
refrain	-	abstain; hold back; keep away	احتراز کرنا - باز رہنا
rend	-	tear apart; rip; strip	پھاڑنا

Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct synonym.

- And a time to every **purpose** under the heaven.
A) object B) proposition
C) principle D) meaning
- A time to **plant** / A time to pluck up that which is planted.
A) sapling B) irrigate
C) plan D) sow
- A time to **pluck up** that which is planted.
A) eat B) sell
C) reap D) cultivate
- A time to **break down** / And a time to build up.
A) finish B) demolish
C) spoil D) complete
- A time to break down / And a time to **build up**.
A) demolish B) construct
C) promote D) progress
- A time to weep / And a time to **dance**.
A) exercise B) move
C) rejoice D) jump
- A time to **cast away** stones...
A) pile up B) spread
C) throw away D) cut
- And a time to **gather** stones together.
A) gain B) add
C) compress D) collect
- A time to **embrace** / And a time to refrain from embracing.
A) accept B) denounce
C) mingle D) favour
- And a time to **refrain** from embracing.
(Board 2015)
A) sustain B) maintain
C) abstain D) disdain
- A time to **rend** / And a time to sew.
A) wear B) redo
C) repair D) tear apart
- A time to rend / And a time to **sew**.
A) join B) stitch
C) make D) sow

Answers

1.	A	3.	C	5.	B	7.	C	9.	A	11.	D
2.	D	4.	B	6.	C	8.	D	10.	C	12.	B

Questions and Answers

- Q.1** What is the central idea of the poem "Times"? OR
What is the subject-matter of the poem "Times"? OR
What does the poem "Times" emphasize?

Ans. "Times" emphasizes the importance of time in our life. All things in the universe follow a particular time scheme. Success in life depends on the timeliness of our actions and choices in all matters, great or small.

- Q.2** How do you make out the lines: "A time to plant / And a time to pluck up that which is planted"?

Ans. There is striking precision in the stern dictates of time which must be obeyed to avoid regret and loss. Crops grown out of season produce nothing and begin to rot if the harvest is delayed. Untimely efforts bring no reward.

- Q.3** What do you understand by the lines: A time to keep silence / And a time to speak?

Ans. Unnecessary speech brings unnecessary fate. It is always wise to see which way the wind blows. Both silence and speech have their own value but the point is we must choose a proper time to speak and to keep silent.

- Q.4** Who is the author of the poem "Times"?

Ans. These lines have been taken from the selection "Times" from "Ecclesiastes", a version of King James Bible.

- Q.5** What is Ecclesiastes?

Ans. Ecclesiastes is a book in the Old Testament of the Bible, traditionally attributed to King Solomon. It is book a of wisdom literature, consisting of reflections on the vanity of human life.

(Board 2022)

Explanation with Reference to the Context

Lines 1-4:

To everything there is a season,
And a time to every purpose under the heaven;
A time to be born,
And a time to die.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the selection "Times" from "Ecclesiastes", a version of King James Bible.

Context:

"Times" emphasizes the importance of time in our life. All things in the universe follow a particular time scheme. Success in life depends on the timeliness of our actions and choices in all matters, great and small. Time is the greatest planner. It designs the events and accidents meticulously and brings joys or grief to the people.

Explanation:

The preacher says that everything works according to a fixed time-table in this universe. God has fixed a time for different occurrences in the universe. Different seasons have been chosen for different happenings in the universe. Man has to work according to a certain time chosen for a specific purpose. Similarly, the time of birth and death of a person is decided in heaven. Man's death and birth are monitored by God. The idea is that God has determined particular things and operations to particular times. If we neglect the appointed seasons, we sin against Providence, and

become the authors of our own distresses. Nobody can know what time holds in store for us. Its schemes are unintelligible. Such are the baffling ways of time – the greatest enigma. Arrival is on time and so is departure – a time to breathe and a time to breathe one's last.

Lines 5-8:

A time to plant,
And a time to pluck up that which is planted...
A time to break down,
And a time to build up.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the selection "Times" from "Ecclesiastes", a version of King James Bible.

Context:

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Explanation:

The preacher says that everything works according to a fixed time table. There is a time to plant various fruits and crops. Different crops require different climatic conditions to sow and to grow. There is a fixed time to sow the seeds and a time to pluck the ripe fruits. There is time to build up anything and there is also a time to demolish what has been made. Moving further to the next verse, we see the same making and breaking but at a fixed time. There is a striking precision in whatever occurs.

Lines 9-12:

A time to weep,
And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
And a time to gather stones together.

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the selection "Times" from "Ecclesiastes", a version of King James Bible.

Context:

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Explanation:

There is a time to weep and a time to enjoy the happy moments of life and all occasions have fixed times to take place. There also comes a time when stones are cast away and also a time to gather stones together. The message hidden is to convey to the readers that everything happens at a fixed time. There is a time to hold things together and there is a time to set them apart. We create problems for us when we try to make things happen as per our own will.

Lines 13-22:

A time to embrace,
And a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get,
And a time to lose;

A time to keep,
And a time to cast away;
A time to rend, (Board 2011)
And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence,
And a time to speak . . .

Reference:

These lines have been taken from the selection "Times" from "Ecclesiastes", a version of King James Bible.

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Explanation:

Time also determines our mood and mind. There is a time to welcome and forge friendly ties with the unknown; there is a time to break with the known. Life is a mixture of gain and loss. We get something at one time and lose something the next moment and this is what the real life is. There is a time to rend something which had once been sewn with great care and love. There is also a time to sew, repair and rebuild. There comes a time when it becomes necessary to keep silence. Then there also comes a time to speak. Without proper time, nothing can take place and if we shall try to do so, it will bring distress to our lives. We must realize when to speak and when to remain silent. Furthermore, we should accept the Divine hand which runs and manages the affairs of the universe with a determined and scheduled time.



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