



Unique Literary Series

CHARLES DICKENS

**GREAT
EXPECTATIONS**

(A Critical Evaluation)

**Low-Priced
Student Friendly
Edition**

Dr. S. Sen

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I. TECHNIQUE, STRUCTURE AND PLOT IN *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

It is generally agreed that *Great Expectations*, of all the novels of Dickens, has the most coherent structure. Give your opinion with illustrations from the text, on the structure and technique of this novel.

245

Or

Write a note on the structure of *Great Expectations* pointing out its merits and weaknesses of construction.

Or

Discuss the technique and structure employed by Dickens in *Great Expectations*.

2. Discuss the plot of *Great Expectations*.

250

Or

In *Great Expectations* all the events and characters are bound together in the same plot. Discuss.

Or

The plot of *Great Expectations* has coincidences, but these have significance in terms of the meaning of the novel. Discuss.

3. "Dickens' books have no organic unity, they are full of detachable episodes, characters who serve no purpose in furthering the plot." Discuss with special reference to *Great Expectation*.

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4. Write a short note on the elements of the fairy tale and mystery in the plot of *Great Expectations*.

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II. MAJOR THEMES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

5. Discuss the nature and development of the central theme or themes in *Great Expectations*.

256

Or

How far would you consider the power of money and its corrupting influence to be the main concern in *Great Expectations* ?

Or

The concept of a "gentleman" is the over-riding concern in *Great Expectations*. Discuss.

- | | | |
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| 6. | " <i>Great Expectations</i> is essentially ,an account of Pip's moral education". Discuss. | 261 |
| 7. | "It is remarkable achievement to have kept the reader's sympathy throughout a snob's progress" (Humphry House. Discuss this comment on <i>Great Expectations</i> . | 265 |
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III. TECHNIQUE OF CHARACTER-PORTRAYAL IN *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

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Or

How far is it justifiable to say that Dickens could not portray character in terms of rich or complex inner life? Substantiate your answer with reference to *Great Expectations*

Or

It is often said that Dickens' characters, though vivid and memorable, lack complexity and psychological depth.. What is your opinion in this regard after reading *Great Expectations*

10. The characters of Dickens are brilliant caricatures, but not complex and convincing individuals. Is this statement true with regard to *Great Expectations*? 277
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Or

The picture of Victorian society that emerges from a reading of *Great Expectations* exhibits cruelty and callousness. Illustrate how Dickens has conveyed this picture.

16. Write a short note on the radical criticism of English society by Dickens in *Great Expectations*. 295

Or

How does Dickens use Jaggers and Wemmick to emphasise the inhumanity characterizing the society of his day?

17. Using *Great Expectations* as a reference, write an essay on the Industrial conditions prevailing in Dickens' England. 299

**V. HUMOUR, PATHOS AND SENTIMENTALITY IN
GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

18. *Great Expectations* is not a comic novel, And yet the novel contains some of Dickens' most successful humour. Discuss. 301

Or

Discuss the aptness of the statement that "the humour of Dickens was truly creative and original" with reference to *Great Expectations*.

Or

Illustrate from *Great Expectations* Dickens' capacity for comic invention and his extraordinary gift of humour.

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VI. REALISM AND GREAT EXPECTATION

22. Despite some improbabilities in the story, *Great Expectations* may be called a masterpiece of realism. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer. 313

Or

The portrayal of fantastic happenings and abnormal characters does not detract from its essential realism. Does this statement describe *Great Expectations* adequately?

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Critically examine the mixture of realism, melodrama and fairy tale elements in *Great Expectations*.

30. Do you believe that a man like Pip could be so devoted to Magwitch after feeling so much of repugnance initially? Critically examine this issue. 341

31. "There are two endings of *Great Expectations*. Neither of them can satisfy the reader fully". Comment. 343

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