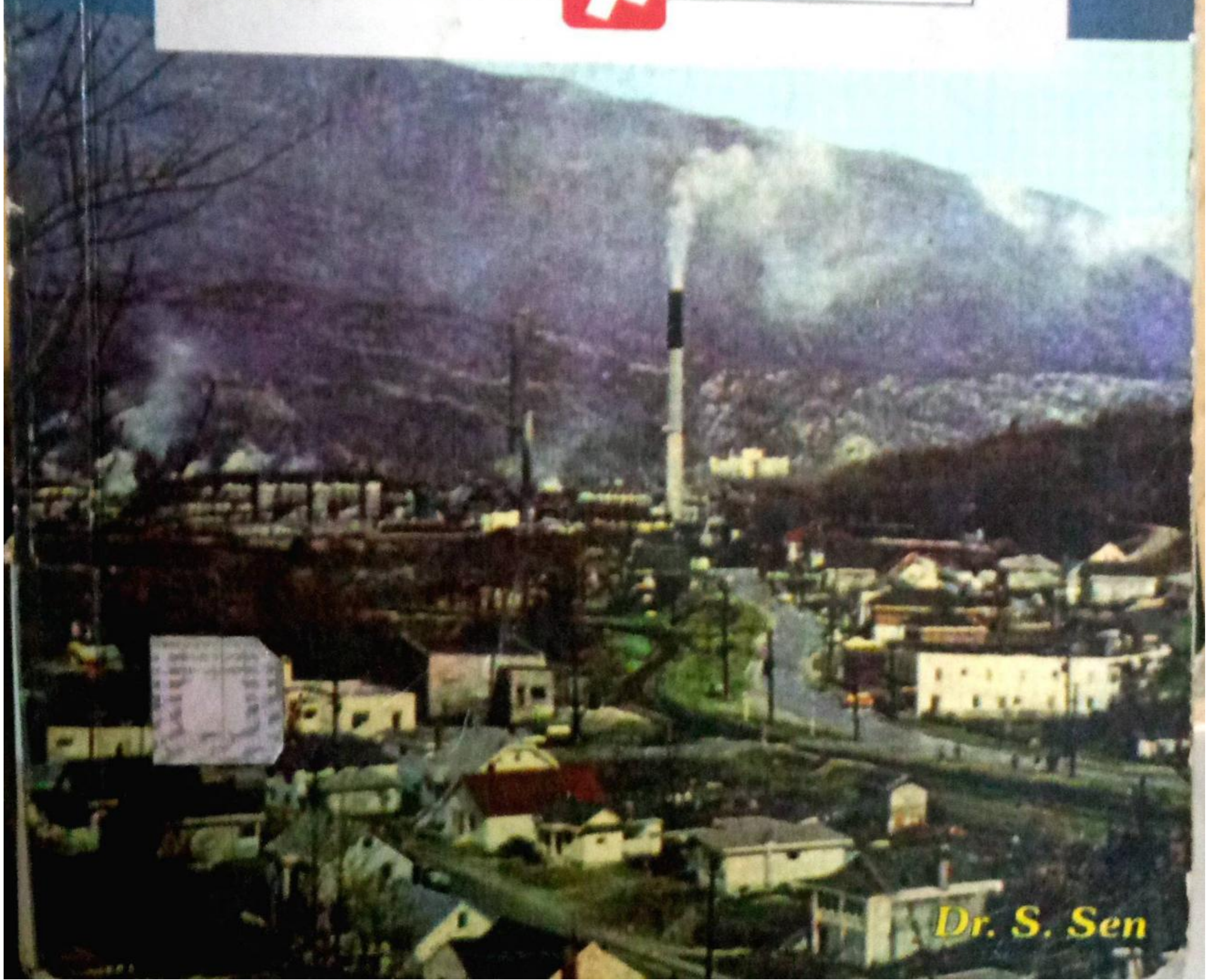


Unique Literary Series

CHARLES DICKENS

HARD TIMES

(A Critical Evaluation)



Dr. S. Sen

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PART III
SELECT UNIVERSITY QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

Q 1. Discuss this dictum : "In *Hard Times* Dickens gives a picture of a part of England under hard times". 179

Or

Write a note on the appropriateness of the title *Hard Times*. Give references to the novel in order to justify your answer.

Q. 2. *Hard Times* is a passionate attack on the contemporary Victorian society. Justify this statement with references to the novel. 182

Or

Discuss *Hard Times* as a social novel.

Or

"Dickens is immortal because he is essentially of his time." Elaborate it with social, political and industrial background of *Hard Times*.

Q. 3. Comment on the structure and plot of *Hard Times*. 187

Or

Elaborate the following dictum : "Of all Dickens' works, *Hard Times* is the one that has all the strength of his genius".

Or

Dickens' handling of plot is par-excellence inspite of few flaws. Give your arguments with references to *Hard Times*.

- Q.4. "Dickens' characters derive their life from the fact that they do reveal a certain aspect of human nature in its individuality." Discuss with references to *Hard Times*. 192

Or

Write a critical note on Dickens' art of characterization in *Hard Times*.

Or

Give your views on Dickens' success of creating individual and living characters in *Hard Times*.

- Q. 5. Discuss Dickens' use of irony and satire in *Hard Times*. 196

Or

Dickens applies wit, humour and satire with particular biting effect in *Hard Times*. Elaborate.

- Q. 6. The circus people in *Hard Times* express vital human impulse. Elaborate the statement with references to the novel. 201

Or

Comment on the following statement with references to *Hard Times* : "The circus people led by Mr. Sleary represent richness of life and unselfish love."

- Q. 7. Do you agree with the opinion of Edgar Johnson: "*Hard Times* is a morality drama, stark, formalized, allegorical, dominated by the mood of piercing through the underlying meaning of the industrial scene rather than describing it in minute detail"? Answer with references to the novel. 204

Or

Write an essay on the use of symbolism in *Hard Times*.

Or

Is *Hard Times* a moral fable ? Answer with references to the novel.

Q. 8. How far Coketown gives unity to *Hard Times*? Elaborate. 210

Or

Write an essay on the symbolic significance of Coketown in *Hard Times*.

Q. 9. Discuss Trade Unionism in *Hard Times*. 213

Or

F.R. Leavis and few other critics generally acknowledge trade union scene in *Hard Times* as unconvincing. Justify your answer with examples from the novel.

Or

Do you think the scenes related to Trade Unionism are convincing? Give your opinions with references to the novel.

Q. 10. Write a note on Utilitarianism and *Laissez-faire* in *Hard Times*. 217

Or

Hard Times is a reproachment of Utilitarian philosophy and *Laissez-faire*. Give reasons for your answer.

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Or

How Dickens has attacked upon the contemporary educational theory in *Hard Times*? Give references to the novel in order to develop your discussion.

Q. 12. Would you justify to regard *Hard Times* the marvellous evidence of Dickens' genius"? Express your opinion with references to the novel. 226

Or

"Of all Dickens' works, *Hard Times* is the one that has 'l the strength of his genius". Discuss this dictum with instances from the novel.

Q. 13. Elaborate this following critical remark: "*Hard Times* is Dickens' most conspicuous failure." 231

Or

What are the blemishes of *Hard Times* ?

Or

Is *Hard Times* a flawed classic ? Give your opinions viewing various aspects of the novel.

- Q. 14. "Times" were "hard" for what kind of people during Victorian age as represented in *Hard Times*? Give firm reasons for your answer. 236

Or

What kind of problems England was undergoing as reflected in *Hard Times* ? Elaborate your answer with references to the novel.

- Q. 15. F.R. Leavis has questioned the trade union scenes in *Hard Times* that they are not convincing. Comment. 238

Or

"Trade Union scenes display the superficial observation of Dickens". Do you agree ? Answer with references to the novel.

- Q. 16. The critic F.R. Leavis comments, "The confutation of Utilitarianism by life is conducted with great subtlety in *Hard Times*." Elaborate. 239

- Q. 17. How far Josiah Bounderby's character is significant in the novel, *Hard Times* ? 240

- Q. 18. How through Gradgrind, Dickens has criticised Utilitarian philosophy in *Hard Times* ? 241

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Discuss the significant role of Gradgrind in *Hard Times*.

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