ENGLISH LITERATURE

PATRIOTISM

REFERENCE I

'Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, me native land!'
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd,
From wandering on a foreign strand!'

Q. 1. Identify the poem and the poet.

Ans: These lines are from the poem 'Patriotism', written by Sir Walter Scott.

Q. 2. What type of a man has a soul which is so dead?

Ans: A man who has no love for his country has a soul which is dead. He is spiritually dead. He is not inspired by noble sentiments of patriotism.

Q. 3. Explain 'heart within him burn'd'.

Ans: The poet refers to the warm feelings of a patriot when he is returning home. His heart then is filled with a strong, burning desire to come back to his country that he loves so dearly.

Q. 4. Where does he come from? What are his feelings then?

Ans: He is returning from a foreign tour. One who loves his country is eager to return home. His heart overflows with emotions of love for his dear native land. He feels a strong sense of home - sickness while he is abroad. Back home, he feels happy.

REFERENCE II

'If such there breathe, go mark him well;
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;'

Q. 5. 'If such there breathe', what is the reference in this exclamation?

Ans: The poet is doubtful if there is anyone living in the world, who does not feel any love for his native land. 'If such there breathe', means if any such man is living.

Ans: Minstrels were the singers singing praises in the royal courts. They used to sing glories of brave and good people. The poet says that for an unpatriotic person, no singers sing songs of praise.

REFERENCE III

'High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
Despite those titles, power and pelf,
The wretch, concentrated all in self,'

Q. 7. What is the reference about titles, power and pelf?

Ans: A person may possess high titles in life. He may be powerful and influential too. He may have collected great wealth through dishonest means.

Q. 8. Who is described as a wretch? Why is he so described?

Ans: The unpatriotic person is described as a wretch. He is miserable and alone. He is so described as he is selfish, and does not perform his duty towards his country or countrymen.

REFERENCE IV

'Living shall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unsung.'

Q.9. What happens to an unpatriotic person whilst he is alive?

Ans: When an unpatriotic person is alive he is not respected. He is deprived (forfeit) of a good (fair) name and reputation (renown).

Q.10. Explain the significance of the phrase 'doubly dying'.

Ans: The poet says that an unpatriotic person is considered spiritually dead when otherwise living, and his physical death becomes his death the second time (doubly dying).

Q.11. How is an unpatriotic person treated by the people after his death?

Ans: An unpatriotic person's death puts an end to his physical existence. His memory is wiped out after his death. His mortal remains get mingled with the dust from which he had sprung. He remains unhonoured and unsung. No one sheds tears of sympathy or sorrow over his death.