

Indian Writing in English PYQ 2019

Q1 a Write a short note on the title of the story The Intrusion by Shashi Deshpande.

Ans. Title: The Intrusion by Shashi Deshpande

"The Intrusion" is a captivating short story written by acclaimed Indian author Shashi Deshpande. The narrative revolves around the themes of invasion, boundaries, and the complexities of human relationships. Published in **2018**, Deshpande skillfully crafts a thought-provoking tale that delves into the subtleties of power dynamics and the invasion of personal spaces.

The title itself, "The Intrusion," immediately captures the reader's attention and hints at the central conflict of the story. It suggests an unwelcome breach or violation of boundaries, which sets the stage for the underlying tension and unease that permeates the narrative.

The story primarily revolves around the life of a middle-aged woman named Devayani. She leads a quiet and contented existence until an unexpected intrusion disrupts her sense of peace and privacy. The intrusion comes in the form of a new neighbor, Mrs. Shaw, who moves into the apartment next door. As the story progresses, it becomes evident that Mrs. Shaw possesses an uncanny ability to pry into Devayani's life, invading her personal space both physically and emotionally.

Through the character of Mrs. Shaw, Deshpande explores the idea of boundaries and the blurring of private and public spheres. Mrs. Shaw's intrusive nature and her relentless curiosity gradually erode Devayani's peace of mind, leaving her feeling exposed and vulnerable. The narrative raises questions about the limits of personal freedom, the need for privacy, and the consequences of crossing those boundaries.

As the story unfolds, Deshpande adeptly explores the psychological impact of intrusion on Devayani's life. The intrusion gradually takes a toll on her emotional well-being, forcing her to confront her fears, insecurities, and the nature of human relationships. Devayani's journey becomes a metaphorical exploration of the complexities of personal boundaries, autonomy, and the delicate balance between connection and invasion.

"The Intrusion" is a compelling exploration of the human condition, shedding light on the profound impact of intrusion on an individual's sense of self and identity. Deshpande's nuanced storytelling and insightful characterization highlight the universal struggle to maintain personal boundaries in an increasingly interconnected world.

In conclusion, Shashi Deshpande's "The Intrusion" is a poignant and thought-provoking short story that delves into the themes of invasion, boundaries, and the complexities of human relationships. Through the titular intrusion, Deshpande weaves a narrative that explores the delicate balance

between privacy and connection, raising essential questions about personal autonomy and the impact of intrusion on one's sense of self.

Q1 b Comment on the significance of the radio in the story, The Free Radio. Do you think it works as a metaphor for larger deceptions that the State is involved in Present a well-reasoned argument.

Ans. In the story "The Free Radio" by Salman Rushdie, the radio serves as a significant symbol and metaphor for larger deceptions perpetuated by the State. It represents the power of communication and the manipulation of information to control and deceive the masses. Through a well-reasoned argument, we can explore the various aspects of the radio's significance and its correlation to state deception.

Firstly, the radio in the story acts as a powerful tool for dissemination of information. It provides a means for individuals like Ramani and his wife, the central characters of the story, to access news and entertainment. Initially, the radio is a source of joy and liberation for them, offering a glimpse into the outside world and fostering a sense of connection and possibility.

However, as the story progresses, we witness the transformation of the radio into a mechanism of deception. Ramani is lured into believing that he has won a free radio, which turns out to be a hoax. The deception is orchestrated by the State, represented by the character of Ranga, who uses the promise of the radio as a means to exploit and control Ramani.

Metaphorically, the radio represents the larger mechanisms of state control and propaganda. It highlights how the State uses the allure of technology and media to manipulate and deceive its citizens. The deception of the free radio mirrors the deceptive tactics employed by authoritarian regimes to maintain power and control over their populations.

Moreover, the radio also symbolizes the power of storytelling and narrative manipulation. In the story, Ranga fabricates an elaborate tale about the importance of the free radio and its association with political figures. This narrative serves as a distraction and a means to manipulate Ramani, diverting his attention from the harsh realities of his life. It reflects how the State often uses captivating stories and propaganda to mask its true intentions and maintain a semblance of control.

Furthermore, the radio's significance extends beyond the individual level. It represents the larger systems of communication and information dissemination that the State can manipulate for its own agenda. By controlling the radio waves and censoring content, the State can shape public opinion and perpetuate its own version of reality. This manipulation of information parallels the broader deceptions carried out by the State, such as spreading propaganda, suppressing dissent, and controlling the narrative.

In **conclusion**, the radio in "The Free Radio" functions as a metaphor for larger deceptions perpetrated by the State. It symbolizes the manipulation of information, the power of storytelling, and the control over communication channels. Through the story's exploration of the radio as a tool of deception, Salman Rushdie highlights the broader mechanisms through which authoritarian regimes maintain control and manipulate their citizens. The radio serves as a potent symbol, reminding us of the dangers of misinformation, propaganda, and the manipulation of communication channels in society.

Q2 a With reference to Nissim Ezekiel's "Enterprise", explain the relationship between pursuit of recognition and the feeling of belongingness

Ans. In Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Enterprise," the speaker explores the relationship between the pursuit of recognition and the feeling of belongingness. The poem delves into the struggles and aspirations of an individual who seeks validation and acceptance in the world, highlighting the complex interplay between the desire for recognition and the need to belong.

The poem opens with the speaker expressing a deep yearning for recognition and success. They desire to achieve greatness and make a mark in the world. This pursuit of recognition stems from a fundamental human desire for validation and acknowledgment. It reflects the universal need to be seen, heard, and appreciated for one's talents and accomplishments. The speaker's ambition to rise above mediocrity and attain recognition is driven by a longing to find their place in society.

However, as the poem progresses, the speaker realizes that the pursuit of recognition comes at a cost. They become aware of the sacrifices and compromises they must make to fit into societal expectations. The line "Yes, I shall be / like the casual yachtsman / who guides his frail boat / across the ocean of the world / with an invisible / butler at the helm" suggests that the speaker feels a sense of detachment and disingenuousness in their pursuit of recognition. They must conform to the roles and expectations set by society, akin to an "invisible butler," rather than expressing their true self.

Amidst this pursuit, the speaker also yearns for a sense of belongingness. They long to find a place where they can truly belong, where they are accepted for who they are without the need for constant recognition. The line "The rewards will be real, / not reflected" implies a desire for genuine connections and relationships, where their worth is not measured by external validation but by the authenticity of their connections. This suggests that the speaker recognizes the limitations and emptiness of pursuing recognition alone, as it fails to satisfy their deeper need for belongingness.

Throughout the poem, Ezekiel explores the tension between the pursuit of recognition and the longing for a sense of belonging. The speaker's desire for recognition drives their ambition, but it also makes them question their authenticity and the true nature of their relationships. They grapple with the compromises they must make to be recognized while yearning for a deeper sense of connection and belonging that goes beyond superficial accolades.

In "Enterprise," Ezekiel highlights the inherent human need for recognition and validation, while simultaneously exploring the deeper longing for belongingness. The poem serves as a reminder that true fulfillment and contentment arise not solely from external recognition but from genuine connections and acceptance. It prompts us to reflect on the balance between ambition and authenticity, and the importance of finding a place where we can belong without sacrificing our true selves.

Q2 b "Don't write in English, they said. English is not your mother tongue. With reference to Kamla Das's poetry reflect on the predicaments of Indian bilingual writers

Ans. The statement, "**Don't write in English, they said. English is not your mother tongue,**" emphasizes the common sentiment expressed by some critics or individuals who question the choice of Indian English writers, including Kamala Das, to write in English rather than in their native languages. It raises questions about the authenticity, cultural identity, and linguistic complexities faced by Indian writers who choose English as their medium of expression.

Indian English literature emerged as a distinct genre during the colonial period when English became a language of power and privilege. Since then, many Indian writers have chosen English as a means to reach a wider audience and engage with global literary traditions. Kamala Das, a prominent Indian English poet and writer, was among those who adopted English as her creative medium.

The statement also highlights the criticism and challenges faced by Indian English writers in their choice of language. They often encounter resistance from those who believe that writing in English undermines the richness and depth of Indian languages and cultures. Critics argue that writing in English distances writers from their roots and perpetuates the dominance of English as a colonial legacy.

However, Indian English writers like Kamala Das have defended their choice to write in English. They see it as a means of expressing themselves freely and accessing a broader readership, both within and outside India. Writing in English allows them to engage with a global literary landscape and contribute to the larger discourse of human experiences.

Indian English writers often negotiate a complex linguistic terrain, drawing from multiple languages, dialects, and cultural influences. Their works are characterized by a unique blend of Indian vernacular expressions, idioms, and English language conventions. This linguistic hybridity enriches the literary landscape and challenges the notion of a monolithic English language.

Moreover, Indian English writers bring a distinct perspective and voice to their narratives. They navigate the complexities of Indian society, culture, and history, while also grappling with universal themes and concerns. Their works shed light on diverse Indian experiences, challenging stereotypes and offering nuanced portrayals of Indian identities.

The experiences of Indian English writers like Kamala Das reflect a dynamic and evolving literary tradition. They negotiate the tensions between language, cultural identity, and creative expression. While some critics may question their choice of English as a medium, Indian English writers have made significant contributions to literature by forging a unique space that embraces multiple languages, cultures, and perspectives.

In **conclusion**, the weedicaments faced by Indian English writers, as exemplified in the statement regarding Kamala Das, highlight the ongoing debates surrounding the choice of language and cultural identity. Indian English writers navigate a complex linguistic and cultural landscape, blending their native languages with English to create a distinct literary tradition. **Their works challenge the notion of a monolithic English language and contribute to a rich and diverse Indian literary canon.**

Q3 a The significance of the Albert Mission High School in swam and Friends O RK. Narayan.

Ans. In R.K. Narayan's novel "**Swami and Friends**," the Albert Mission High School holds great significance as it serves as the primary setting where the young protagonist, Swaminathan (Swami),

experiences various adventures, friendships, and life lessons. The school plays a crucial role in shaping Swami's character and highlighting broader themes in the novel.

First and foremost, the Albert Mission High School represents the world outside of Swami's home and immediate surroundings. It serves as a microcosm of the larger society, exposing Swami to diverse individuals, social hierarchies, and the complexities of human interactions. The school becomes a space where Swami navigates friendships, rivalries, and the expectations of teachers and authorities, providing him with valuable lessons about the realities of the outside world.

The school also highlights the contrast between the freedom and innocence of childhood and the structured environment of education. Swami, initially a carefree and mischievous boy, encounters strict discipline and academic pressures within the school setting. The routines, rules, and expectations imposed upon him symbolize the transition from childhood to adolescence and the accompanying loss of innocence. The conflicts and challenges Swami faces at school reflect the larger themes of growing up, identity formation, and the pressures of conforming to societal norms.

Furthermore, the school acts as a catalyst for Swami's personal growth and self-discovery. Through his interactions with classmates, teachers, and authority figures, Swami learns valuable life lessons about friendship, loyalty, betrayal, and the consequences of his actions. The relationships he forms within the school environment, particularly with his close friend Mani and his strict headmaster, Mr. Ebenezer, shape his worldview and contribute to his emotional and moral development.

Moreover, the Albert Mission High School serves as a backdrop for social and cultural dynamics in the fictional town of Malgudi. The interactions among students from different backgrounds and social classes shed light on the prevailing hierarchies and prejudices within the society. The school becomes a space where these societal divisions are both reinforced and challenged, reflecting the complexities of Indian society during the colonial era.

Overall, the Albert Mission High School in "Swami and Friends" holds great significance as a central setting where the young protagonist undergoes a journey of self-discovery and encounters the realities of the outside world. It serves as a microcosm of society, highlighting themes of growth, identity, and social dynamics. Through the school environment and the relationships formed within it, Swami learns important life lessons and navigates the challenges of adolescence, contributing to the overarching narrative of the novel.

OR

Q3 b Reflect critically on the portrayal of Mirpore in Anita Desai's In Custody:

Ans. Anita Desai's novel "In Custody" provides a portrayal of the city of Mirpore, which is a significant setting in the story. While Desai's depiction of Mirpore is nuanced and vivid, it can be subject to critical reflection regarding its portrayal.

One aspect to consider is the cultural and historical context of Mirpore. Desai presents the city as a **decaying and dilapidated place, symbolizing the decline of traditional Urdu poetry and literature.** Mirpore becomes a metaphorical representation of a bygone era, with crumbling architecture and neglected cultural heritage. Through this portrayal, Desai explores the loss of cultural identity and the erosion of artistic traditions in a changing society. However, some readers might argue that this

depiction presents a somewhat one-sided and exaggerated view of Mirpore, as it focuses solely on its decline rather than highlighting any positive aspects or contemporary developments.

Additionally, the characterization of Mirpore as a **stagnant and unprogressive city** raises questions about the author's perspective on cultural preservation. While Desai's intent might be to emphasize the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage, the portrayal of Mirpore can be seen as romanticizing the past and resisting change. This perspective can be problematic as it overlooks the complexities of a modern, evolving society and the potential for cultural revitalization and adaptation.

Another aspect worth reflecting on is the representation of Mirpore's inhabitants. The characters from Mirpore, particularly the Urdu poets, are often portrayed as melancholic, nostalgic figures yearning for a glorious past. While this characterization adds depth and emotional resonance to the story, it can reinforce stereotypes about artists and intellectuals as detached from reality and unable to adapt to societal changes. Such representation might oversimplify the complex realities and varied perspectives of individuals residing in Mirpore.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that Desai's portrayal of Mirpore is filtered through the perspective of the protagonist, Deven. As a character consumed by his own insecurities and disillusionment, his view of Mirpore may be biased and limited. This narrow lens can result in an incomplete portrayal of the city and its inhabitants, potentially overlooking the resilience, innovation, and diversity that may exist within Mirpore.

In **conclusion**, while Anita Desai's portrayal of Mirpore in "In Custody" is evocative and thought-provoking, it is subject to critical reflection. The depiction of Mirpore as a decaying city and its inhabitants as melancholic figures may oversimplify the complexities of cultural preservation, societal change, and individual perspectives. It is essential to consider the context, biases, and limitations inherent in the novel's portrayal of Mirpore to form a comprehensive understanding of the city and its significance in the story.

Q4 a Comment on the underlying irony of Swami's role in the nationalist unrest of his time

Ans. The underlying irony of Swami's role in the nationalist unrest of his time in R.K. Narayan's "Swami and Friends" reflects the complexity and contradictions inherent in the process of social and political change. Swami, the young protagonist, unwittingly becomes involved in the nationalist movement, despite his initial indifference and confusion regarding the political events unfolding around him.

One aspect of the irony lies in Swami's initial apathy towards the nationalist movement. He is more preoccupied with his everyday **struggles, friendships, and personal experiences**. Swami's primary concerns revolve around school, exams, and his interactions with his friends, making the political upheaval seem distant and inconsequential to his immediate world. However, as the story progresses, Swami finds himself inadvertently caught up in the fervor of the nationalist movement, often finding himself at the center of political demonstrations and conflicts.

Another layer of irony emerges from the juxtaposition of Swami's innocence and the gravity of the nationalist struggle. Swami is portrayed as a naive and impressionable young boy, far removed from the complexities of politics and nationalistic ideologies. He is swept up in the emotions and actions

of those around him without fully comprehending the larger implications of his participation. This contrast between Swami's youthful innocence and the serious nature of the nationalist unrest highlights the incongruity of his involvement.

Furthermore, Swami's actions and the outcomes of his involvement in the nationalist movement often result in unintended consequences. His participation in protests and confrontations leads to unpredictable and sometimes comical outcomes, highlighting the discrepancy between his intentions and the actual impact of his actions. This irony reinforces the idea that individual involvement in historical events can be shaped by chance and personal circumstances rather than a conscious choice or understanding of the larger context.

The irony in Swami's role also reflects a broader commentary on the complexities of nationalist movements and their effects on individuals and communities. While the nationalist struggle seeks to bring about meaningful change and liberation, Swami's experiences highlight the confusion, misunderstandings, and contradictions that can arise in the pursuit of such goals. The irony underscores the gap between idealized notions of nationalism and the messy realities of its implementation.

Overall, the irony of Swami's role in the nationalist unrest in "Swami and Friends" serves as a lens through which to explore the complexities, contradictions, and unintended consequences of political movements. Swami's inadvertent involvement and his naïve perspective emphasize the disconnect between personal experiences and larger historical events, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of social and political change.

OR

Q4 b Cricket as a colonial legacy in Swami and Friends. Discuss.

Ans. In R.K. Narayan's novel "Swami and Friends," cricket is portrayed as a colonial legacy that holds significant cultural and social implications within the Indian society of the time. The sport of cricket, introduced by the British during the colonial era, becomes a symbol of cultural influence and a means through which power dynamics and social hierarchies are reinforced and challenged.

Firstly, cricket serves as a manifestation of British colonial influence and a reminder of India's colonial past. The British introduced the sport to India as part of their cultural and social imposition, using it as a means to instill their values and maintain a sense of control over the Indian population. Cricket in the novel is associated with the British elite and the privileged classes, highlighting the stark divide between the colonizers and the colonized.

Furthermore, cricket acts as a medium through which power dynamics and social hierarchies are perpetuated and contested within the Indian society depicted in the novel. The sport becomes a symbol of status and prestige, with the characters aspiring to be part of the cricket team as a way to gain recognition and elevate their social standing. Swami, the protagonist, is initially excluded from the cricket team due to his lack of skill, reflecting his marginalized position in the social hierarchy.

Additionally, cricket becomes a platform for cultural assimilation and a vehicle for challenging societal norms. Swami's friend Rajam, who represents the anglicized elite, excels in cricket and uses his skills to challenge the established social order. Rajam's inclusion in the cricket team and

subsequent rise to popularity signify a disruption of traditional power structures and a rejection of the existing social hierarchy.

However, it is important to note that **cricket in the novel is not solely portrayed as a negative or oppressive force**. It also serves as a unifying and egalitarian element, bringing people from different backgrounds together on the field. The cricket matches create a sense of camaraderie and shared experiences among the characters, transcending societal divisions and fostering a sense of community.

In conclusion, cricket in "Swami and Friends" is presented as a colonial legacy that carries cultural and social significance. It represents the British colonial influence and serves as a vehicle for power dynamics and social hierarchies. The sport highlights the divide between the colonizers and the colonized, while also acting as a platform for challenging societal norms and fostering unity among individuals. By exploring cricket's role in the novel, Narayan sheds light on the complexities of India's colonial history and the impact of colonial legacies on its society and culture.

Q5 a "...I think he misses home and us and everything he left behind, because if he likes it over there why would he not write stories about that..." Do you agree with the soaker in the above lines? How do the memories of the narrator surface in his writings in the story "Swimming Lessons" ? Illustrate your answer with examples from the text.

Ans. The **quoted statement suggests that the speaker believes the narrator**, in this case, the son who has moved abroad, must miss home and the people he left behind because he does not write stories about his current surroundings. Whether or not one agrees with the speaker's assumption depends on the interpretation of the narrator's writings in the story "Swimming Lessons" by Rohinton Mistry.

In "**Swimming Lessons**," the narrator, through his writings, explores various **themes and memories** that surface in his stories. While the narrator does not explicitly write about his current surroundings abroad, it does not necessarily mean he misses home or fails to appreciate his new environment. Instead, his memories and emotions are intertwined with his writing, shaping the stories he tells.

One example of the narrator's memories surfacing in his writings is seen in the story "The Ghost of Firozsha Baag." This story is set in a Parsi housing complex in Bombay and revolves around characters who live there. The narrator draws inspiration from his own experiences growing up in Firozsha Baag, reflecting on the vibrant community, the quirks of its inhabitants, and the challenges they face. Through this story, the narrator taps into his memories and uses them to create a vivid depiction of a place he holds dear.

Another example is the story "**Condolence Visit**," in which the narrator explores the theme of loss and grieving. Although the story is not explicitly set in the narrator's hometown, his personal experiences and emotions are evident in the writing. The narrator's memories of attending condolence visits in his community and witnessing the rituals associated with death contribute to the authenticity and depth of the story.

Additionally, the story "**Swimming Lessons**" itself reflects the narrator's memories and longing for home. The narrative follows a swimming instructor who imparts life lessons to his students while reminiscing about his childhood and the swimming pool in his hometown. The narrator's

recollections of his past, his feelings of nostalgia, and the way he weaves these memories into his instruction demonstrate how his writing serves as a vehicle for preserving and expressing his connection to home.

In **conclusion**, the memories of the narrator in "Swimming Lessons" surface in his writings, illustrating his emotional attachment to his hometown. Although he may not directly write about his current surroundings abroad, his stories are deeply rooted in his memories and experiences. By incorporating elements of his past into his writing, the narrator evokes a sense of longing and nostalgia, allowing readers to glimpse his connection to home despite being physically distant.

Q5 b With reference to at least two poems from your syllabus write an essay on the significance of childhood to poetic imagination.

Ans. Childhood holds a special place in the realm of poetic imagination, inspiring poets to explore its significance and evoke a sense of nostalgia, innocence, and wonder. Through the lens of childhood, poets capture the essence of human experience and illuminate profound truths about life. Two poems that exemplify the significance of childhood in poetic imagination are William Wordsworth's "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood" and William Blake's "The Lamb."

Wordsworth's "**Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood**" delves into the transformative power of childhood memories and their lasting impact on adult life. The poem reflects on the loss of the divine and spiritual connection experienced in childhood and the longing to regain that state of innocence and purity. Wordsworth believes that children possess a unique vision and closeness to the spiritual world, which fades as they grow older. The poem explores the idea that childhood memories can serve as a source of solace and inspiration, reminding individuals of the beauty and joy that once existed.

The significance of childhood in Wordsworth's poem lies in its ability to awaken the poet's imagination and tap into universal truths. Through vivid recollections of nature and the wonders of the world, the speaker in the poem seeks to reclaim the visionary experiences of childhood. Wordsworth suggests that the memories of childhood shape our perception of reality and influence our understanding of the world. By evoking the essence of childhood, the poem highlights the power of imagination as a transformative force, allowing individuals to transcend the mundane and glimpse the eternal.

In Blake's "The Lamb," childhood takes center stage as a symbol of purity, innocence, and divine connection. The poem presents a child's innocent questioning of the lamb's creator, illustrating the belief that children possess a natural curiosity and closeness to the divine. Through the child's inquiries, Blake explores the profound relationship between the creator, the created, and the role of innocence in understanding the divine.

Childhood in Blake's poem represents a state of uncorrupted simplicity and trust. The lamb serves as a metaphor for Christ and embodies qualities of gentleness, meekness, and innocence. Through the child's contemplation of the lamb's creator, Blake highlights the notion that children possess an innate understanding of the divine and can perceive truths that may elude adults. The poem

emphasizes the transformative power of a child's perspective, reminding readers of the importance of nurturing and preserving innocence in the face of worldly influences.

Both Wordsworth and Blake demonstrate how childhood serves as a fertile ground for poetic imagination. Childhood memories evoke powerful emotions, inspire introspection, and enable poets to explore universal themes of loss, innocence, spirituality, and the fleeting nature of time. By tapping into the essence of childhood, poets are able to convey profound truths about the human experience and invite readers to rekindle their own sense of wonder, imagination, and connection to the divine.

In conclusion, childhood holds immense significance in the realm of poetic imagination. Through poems such as Wordsworth's "Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood" and Blake's "The Lamb," we witness the evocation of childhood memories and the exploration of their lasting impact on individuals. These poems illuminate the transformative power of childhood, its ability to awaken imagination, evoke nostalgia, and reveal profound truths about the human condition. By engaging with the realm of childhood, poets delve into the essence of existence and invite readers to reawaken their own sense of wonder and connection to the divine.

Q6 a In custody captures the perilous relationship between institutional control and individual aspirations in the life of an academic. Discuss with reference to Deven's struggles in the novel.

Ans. In Anita Desai's novel "In Custody," the character Deven's struggles exemplify the precarious relationship between institutional control and individual aspirations, particularly in the context of academia. Deven, an academic and poet, becomes entangled in a web of power dynamics, personal ambitions, and the stifling influence of the educational institution where he works.

Deven's journey reflects the conflict between his personal aspirations as a poet and the expectations imposed on him by the institution. As a professor of Hindi literature, he is expected to adhere to the established norms and traditions of academia, focusing on scholarly pursuits rather than creative expression. This clash between his desire to pursue his own poetic ambitions and the constraints of the institution creates a sense of internal conflict and frustration for Deven.

One significant aspect of Deven's struggles is his quest to interview the renowned Urdu poet, Nur. The opportunity to document Nur's work and life holds the promise of fulfilling Deven's own creative aspirations. However, in his pursuit of this personal ambition, Deven faces numerous obstacles, including the indifference and bureaucracy of the educational institution he works for. The institution's lack of support and understanding for his endeavor reflects the controlling nature of institutional power, which often prioritizes conformity and academic norms over individual passions.

Furthermore, Deven's struggles highlight the tension between cultural preservation and artistic freedom. Urdu poetry, represented by Nur, stands as a symbol of a rich literary tradition threatened by neglect and the dominance of other languages. Deven's desire to preserve and celebrate this artistic heritage clashes with the institution's preference for Hindi literature, which represents a more established and widely recognized academic discipline. This conflict underscores the challenges faced by individuals whose creative aspirations do not align with institutional agendas, creating a sense of alienation and disillusionment.

Moreover, Deven's personal relationships, particularly with his wife Sarla and his friend Murad, also reflect the impact of institutional control on his life. Sarla, disappointed by Deven's lack of career success, serves as a reminder of societal expectations and the pressure to conform to conventional notions of success. Murad, on the other hand, represents an alternative path, embracing a more rebellious and non-conformist attitude towards academia. Their contrasting viewpoints and experiences serve as a constant reminder of the choices and sacrifices individuals face when navigating the complex dynamics of institutional control and personal aspirations.

In conclusion, Deven's struggles in "In Custody" **exemplify the delicate and often perilous relationship between institutional control and individual aspirations**. His journey highlights the clash between personal ambitions and the expectations imposed by the educational institution. Through Deven's struggles, Anita Desai raises questions about the sacrifices individuals make in pursuing their creative passions within a system that often prioritizes conformity and traditional norms. The novel serves as a powerful exploration of the tensions between institutional control and personal fulfillment, shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals seeking to reconcile their own aspirations with the demands of the institutions they are a part of.

Q6 b Desai's novel dramatizes language politics in modern India and the disappearance of Urdu from public spaces. Reflect critically.

Ans. Anita Desai's novel "In Custody" indeed provides a dramatic portrayal of language politics in modern India and the gradual disappearance of Urdu from public spaces. Through her characters and their experiences, Desai sheds light on the complexities and challenges faced by languages deemed as marginalized or on the decline, particularly Urdu.

One of the key themes in the novel is the tension between Hindi and Urdu, two prominent languages in India. The dominance of Hindi as the national language, coupled with political and cultural shifts, has marginalized Urdu and limited its presence in public spaces. Desai highlights how Urdu, once a vibrant and widely spoken language, is now overshadowed and faces the threat of extinction.

The character of Nur, the celebrated Urdu poet, serves as a symbol of Urdu's decline. Nur represents a fading era of Urdu literature and poetry, struggling to find recognition and a place in contemporary society. His poetry embodies the richness and beauty of Urdu, but the lack of appreciation and support for his work reflects the diminishing importance of Urdu in public discourse.

Language politics and the power dynamics associated with language are further exemplified through the character of Deven. As a professor of Hindi literature, Deven finds himself torn between his personal affinity for Urdu and the institutional pressure to promote Hindi. Deven's own struggles reflect the larger socio-political context in which languages are pitted against each other, leading to the marginalization of certain languages and the imposition of dominant ones.

Desai also explores the impact of language politics on personal identities and cultural heritage. The character of Deven, who is passionate about Urdu poetry, grapples with the loss of his own linguistic roots and the erosion of his cultural heritage. He witnesses the fading influence of Urdu in his own life and the lives of those around him, leading to a sense of dislocation and nostalgia.

Critically, Desai's portrayal of language politics in "In Custody" highlights the complexities and nuances of the issue. While the disappearance of Urdu from public spaces is depicted as a loss, the novel does not solely blame Hindi or any particular language for the decline. It delves into the broader societal changes, political agendas, and cultural shifts that contribute to the marginalization of languages.

Desai's novel prompts us to reflect on the importance of linguistic diversity, cultural preservation, and the need for inclusive language policies. It raises questions about the power dynamics involved in language politics and the impact on individual identities and societal cohesion.

In **conclusion**, "In Custody" by Anita Desai offers a critical exploration of language politics in modern India and the gradual disappearance of Urdu from public spaces. Through her characters and their experiences, Desai captures the complexities and challenges faced by languages marginalized by dominant ones. The novel invites readers to reflect on the significance of linguistic diversity, cultural heritage, and inclusive language policies in maintaining a vibrant and inclusive society.

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