

UNIT 07

Time

وقت

Pre-reading

- What images or feelings come to mind when you think about time?

Ans. Time gives the feelings of a continuous movement and change. It reminds us of past incidents, present moments and the uncertainty of the future.

- How do you think poets can convey the idea of time?

Ans. Poets can convey the idea of time by using simple language, imagery and comparisons. They can also describe time through everyday experiences.

Vocabulary Table

Sr.	Words	Pronunciation	POS	Synonyms	Meanings
1	unfathomable	/ʌn'fæðəməbəl/	adj	immeasurable, bottomless	ناقابلِ پیمائش، اتعاه
2	woe	/wʊ/	n	sorrow, misery	غم، دکھ
3	brackish	/'brækɪʃ/	adj	salty, bitter	کھار، نمکین
4	shoreless	/'ʃɔːrləs/	adj	endless, boundless	بے کنار، بے ساحل
5	ebb	/ɛb/	n / v	decline, recede	اتار، کم ہونا
6	claspest	/'klɑːspɪst/	v	hold, grip, embrace	تھام لیتا ہے، جکڑ لیتا ہے
7	mortality	/mɔːr'tælɪti/	n	death, death rate	موت، فنا
8	howling	/'haʊlɪŋ/	adj/v	screaming, roaring	چیختا ہوا، دھاڑتا ہوا
9	vomitest	/'vɒmɪtɪst/	v	eject, spew	اگل دیتا ہے، باہر پھینکتا ہے
10	inhospitable	/,ɪnhə'spɪtəbəl/	adj	unfriendly, harsh	نامہربان، غیر مہمان نواز
11	treacherous	/'tretʃərəs/	adj	dangerous, deceitful	خطرناک، دغا باز
12	terrible	/'terəbəl/	adj	dreadful, fearful	دہشتناک، خوفناک

The Poem — English Text with Urdu Translation

English Text	Urdu Translation
Unfathomable Sea! whose waves are years, Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep woe Are brackish with the salt of human tears! Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb and flow Claspest the limits of mortality!	ناقابلِ پیمائش سمندر! جس کی لہریں سال ہیں، بحرِ وقت، جس کے گہرے دکھ بھرے پانی انسانی آنسوؤں کے نمک سے کھارے ہیں! تیرا بے ساحل سیلاب، جو اپنے اتار چڑھاؤ میں فنا کی حد و حدود جکڑے ہوئے ہے!
And sick of prey, yet howling on for more, Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable shore; Treacherous in calm, and terrible in storm, Who shall put forth on thee, Unfathomable Sea?	اور شکار سے بیزار، پھر بھی مزید کے لیے چیختا ہوا، اپنی تباہ کاریاں اپنے نامہربان ساحل پر اگلتا ہے؛ سکون میں دغا باز، اور طوفان میں دہشتناک، کون تجھے پر عازم سفر ہو گا، ناقابلِ پیمائش سمندر؟

Box Question

► What do these lines suggest about the nature of the sea?

Ans. These lines suggest that the sea of time is cruel, restless and ever-changing, symbolizing the constant flow of time. Its "ebb and flow" reflect life's continuous movement, uncertainty, and the inevitable passage toward decline and mortality.

Glossary

Sr.	Words	Meanings
1	brackish	salty, briny
2	claspest	grasp, hold
3	ebb	recede, retreat
4	howling	screaming, roaring
5	shoreless	boundless, limitless
6	treacherous	deceptive, unreliable
7	unfathomable	bottomless, deep
8	vomitest	spew, eject
9	woe	misery, grief

Reading and Critical Thinking

A. Answer the following questions:

Question	Answer
1. What does the "unfathomable sea" symbolize in the poem?	Ans. Symbol: The unfathomable sea symbolizes time. It represents a force that is infinite, mysterious and beyond human understanding, portraying time as a vast and unpredictable element that eventually consumes all that exists.
2. What words or phrases show time's power over human lives?	Ans. Words or Phrases: Words or phrases like "brackish with the salt of human tears", "sick of prey" and "vomitest thy wrecks" show time's power over human lives. They highlight the sorrow and destruction time leaves behind, i.e. Shelley describes time as destructive.
3. How does the image "shoreless" contribute to the overall meaning of the poem?	Ans. Image: The image of the sea as a "shoreless flood" contributes to the overall meaning by emphasizing the infinite and inescapable nature of time. The ocean of time is very vast, cruel and deceitful.
4. How is mortality connected to the "ebb and flow" of time?	Ans. Connection: In the poem "Time", mortality is linked to the "ebb and flow" of time like the sea's tide, carrying life rises, then time like the humans that life recedes—an inevitable decline highlighting the temporary nature of existence.
5. What is the tone of the poem? How does Shelley use language to create this tone?	Ans. Tone and Shelley: The tone of the poem is dark and awe-inspiring. Shelley uses strong, negative words like "woe", "tears", "howling" and "treacherous" to evoke the feelings of fear and sadness.
6. How does Shelley personify time in the poem?	Ans. Personification: Shelley personifies time in the poem as a hungry beast or monster. He gives it qualities like being "sick of prey", "howling" and "vomitest" wrecks. It helps the reader understand time

Question	Answer
	not just as an abstract concept, but as a living, aggressive force that consumes life actively.
7. Why does Shelley use the word "brackish" to describe the waters of time?	Ans. "Brackish": Shelley uses the word "brackish" (salty water) to link the ocean of time with the salt of human tears. It suggests that time is filled with the accumulated sorrow and grief of all humanity.
8. What role does the "howling" play in the poem?	Ans. "Howling": The "howling" of time in the poem gives it a terrifying voice in the poem. It symbolizes the relentless, chaotic and often violent nature of passing time. It suggests that time is a storm that never ends. It is always demanding more "prey" (lives).
9. What does the final line suggest about humanity's relationship with time?	Ans. Final Line: The final line suggests that humanity is helpless before time. The ocean of time is calm as well as stormy, that destroys everything in its path. Humans cannot escape it rather they are always at the mercy of its unfathomable power.
10. What might Shelley be trying to convey through this question?	Ans. Shelley's Question: Shelley might be trying to convey through this question that humans are helpless before the power of time. No one can control, stop or fully understand it. Time is mysterious, powerful and destructive; and humanity must live under its influence.

Exercise MCQs

B. Choose the correct option.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	What metaphor does Shelley use to describe time in the poem?	river	unfathomable sea ✓	mountain	endless sky
2	In the poem, the "shoreless flood" symbolizes:	the end of life	the unpredictable nature of time ✓	the calmness of time	the boundaries of time
3	What emotion is most strongly conveyed by the word "brackish" in the context of the poem?	joy	grief ✓	indifference	hope
4	The "howling" of time in the poem suggests:	the joy of passing moments	the calmness of eternity	the destructive and relentless nature of time ✓	the beauty of the present
5	What does the word "treacherous" imply about time in the poem?	Time is steady and reliable.	Time is dangerous and deceptive. ✓	Time is comforting and gentle.	Time is forgiving.

C. How does Shelley develop the central idea of time's power and unpredictability throughout the poem, and what supporting images or metaphors does he use to communicate this message clearly?

Ans. Shelley develops the central idea that time is an omnipotent and destructive force by using the metaphor of sea. He supports this with images of "waves are years" (passage of time), "salt of human tears" (human suffering), and "treacherous in calm" (unpredictability). The personification of time as a beast "sick of prey, yet howling on for more" reinforces its unstoppable power.

D. Can you create a mind map summarizing the key ideas and images in Shelley's poem "Time"? What does your mind map reveal about the poem's message on the nature of time and human experience?

Ans. Mind Map:

1. Centre: time (unfathomable sea)
2. Key Ideas: shoreless flood, treacherous in calm, terrible in storm
3. Images: howling on for more, vomiting wrecks, claspings mortality
4. Contents: waves (years), waters (woe / tears)
5. Revealed Message: The map reveals that time is a predator and humans are its prey. The nature of time is infinite and destructive, while human experience is defined by sorrow ("tears") and limitation ("mortality").

E. Write a precis of the poem Time by Percy Bysshe Shelley in 2-3 sentences, focusing on its central metaphor and overall message.

Ans. Precis: P. B. Shelley compares time to a vast and bottomless sea filled with human sorrow. This uncontrollable force limits human life and ruthlessly consumes everything in its path. Ultimately, the poem implies that time is a dangerous and treacherous power that no one can withstand.

Vocabulary and Grammar

6. Capitalization: Using capital letters appropriately such as for the first word of a sentence, proper noun (name of a particular person / place / thing), days of the week, months, titles and the pronoun "I".

Example: *Time waits for none.*

7. Punctuation: The use of marks like period (.), comma (,), exclamation mark (!), question mark (?), quotation marks (" "), and others to clarify meaning in writing.

Example: *Do you know what time it is?*

8. Spelling: It refers to the correct arrangement of the letters of alphabet in a word.

Example: *Tomorrow is Friday.*

A. Write a short paragraph (4-5 lines) describing what "time" means to you. Use correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Ans. To me, time is like a big water body that never stops flowing. It carries the moments of joy and sadness, moving us constantly towards the future. We cannot hold onto it, no matter how hard we try. Therefore, we must cherish every second we have before it slips away. It never comes back and is a great leveller too.

Oral Communication Skills

Speaking Confidently and Fluently in Various Contexts:

Speaking confidently and fluently means expressing your ideas clearly, articulating your thoughts with ease, and engaging your audience in different situations. This skill is essential in contexts such as conflict resolution, panel discussions or dialogues where the purpose could be to inform, persuade or entertain.

A. Class Discussion: "Do you think Shelley's portrayal of time as a destructive and uncontrollable force reflects how most people experience time in real life? Why or why not?"

Ans. Student 1: "I think it does. When we lose someone we love, time feels cruel and unstoppable, just like the poem says. We can't pause it."

Student 2: "I disagree slightly. While time takes things away, it also heals. Shelley only focuses on the 'wrecks' and 'woe', but time also brings new beginnings and growth."

Hyphenation Conventions: A hyphen (-) is a punctuation mark used to join words or to split a word at the end of a syllable only at the end of a line. It helps avoid confusion and creates compound words with clear meaning.

- *Compound adjectives before nouns: She has a well-known voice.*
- *Joining numbers and words: A twenty-minute break.*

B. Can you identify or rewrite a line from Time using a hyphenated compound adjective? For example, could "fast flying bird" be written as "fast-flying bird"? What effect does this change have?

Ans. Original: Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep woe

Rewriting: Ocean of Time, whose deep-woe waters

Effect: Using the hyphenated adjective "deep-woe" makes the description more compact. It treats the "depth" and the "woe" as a single, unified concept describing the waters, rather than two separate words.

Writing Skills

9. Transitions are words or phrases that help connect ideas smoothly across sentences and paragraphs, e.g. however, therefore, in addition, as a result, meanwhile.

10. Syntax is the arrangement of words and phrases to form sentences. Varying syntax (using different sentence structures) helps maintain the reader's interest and clarify complex ideas.

A. Choose two lines or ideas from Time. Write a short paragraph connecting them using at least two transitions and two different sentence structures.

Ans. Shelley describes time as a "shoreless flood" that encircles human life. Consequently, humans feel trapped by its limitless power. Although we try to find stability, the poem reminds us that time is "treacherous in calm". This contrast highlights that even peaceful moments are temporary, for the storm of time is always waiting to return.

Diction:

11. Precise language means using clear, concise, concrete and correct words to express your ideas completely.

12. Domain-specific vocabulary refers to words related to a particular subject area or field, e.g. "fleeting" when discussing time.

13. Metaphor is an implicit comparison, e.g. time is a thief.
14. Simile is an explicit comparison using the words "like" or "as", e.g. time is like a thief.
15. Analogy is an extended comparison to explain an idea, e.g. time is like sand slipping through fingers.

B. What metaphor does the poet use in the poem Time to describe time? How does this help you understand the poem's message?

Ans. The poet uses the metaphor of "Unfathomable Sea". This helps us understand that time is vast, dangerous and deep. Just as the sea can destroy ships (wrecks), time destroys human lives and civilizations, emphasizing our vulnerability.

C. Write your own metaphor or simile to describe how time feels during exams or on your birthday.

Ans. Exams: During exams, time is a bullet train, rushing past before I can catch my breath. (Metaphor)

Birthday: On my birthday, time is like a melting ice cream, sweet but disappearing too quickly. (Simile)

Writing Tips:

16. Formal Style: It means writing in a clear, professional and academic way – no slang, no contractions, and no overly casual language.
17. Objective Tone: It means staying neutral and unbiased, focusing on facts and figures instead of personal opinions or emotions.
18. Norms and Conventions of the Discipline: It refers to the expectations of academic writing in English literature such as using textual evidence, analyzing literary devices and supporting claims logically.
19. Concluding Statement: It is the final part of a written response.

D. What are two features of formal style you should remember when writing an essay about a poem?

Ans. (i) No Slang or Contractions: Avoid words like "gonna", "can't" or "cool". Use "going to", "cannot" and "impressive" instead.

(ii) Academic Way: Use precise words like "symbolizes", "depicts" or "illustrates" instead of simple words like "shows" or "says".

E. Why is it important to keep an objective tone when analyzing literature? How does it help your reader trust your interpretation?

Ans. Keeping an objective tone is important because it focuses the analysis on the text rather than personal feelings. It helps the reader trust the interpretation as it relies on evidence (quotes and facts) from the poem, making the argument sound logical and unbiased rather than just a personal opinion.

The Poem in Detail

A. What is the main idea of the poem "Time"?

Ans. Main Idea: The poem presents time as a powerful and ever-changing force that brings both creation and destruction. It highlights how everything in life – joy, beauty and existence – is temporary, constantly shaped by time's flow, reminding humans of mortality and the fleeting nature of life.

B. Explanation with Reference to the Context

Stanza 1: Line 1-5

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*Unfathomable Sea! whose waves are years,
Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep woe
Are brackish with the salt of human tears!
Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb and flow
Claspest the limits of mortality!*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "Time" written by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Context: The poem was written during the Romantic era when the poets explored nature, change and human existence. It reflects the poet's interest in the transience of life and the inevitable passage of time, emphasizing how all the things are subject to decay and transformation.

Explanation: This stanza presents time as a restless and unstoppable force that governs all aspects of life. It suggests that time moves continuously, bringing constant changes and never allowing anything to remain the same. The imagery often reflects motion, such as flowing or rushing, to emphasize its ceaseless nature. Shelley also hints that human efforts to resist or control time are futile as it ultimately overpowers everything. So, this stanza sets the tone for the poem by introducing time as both creative and destructive, shaping existence while leading all the things toward decline too.

Stanza 2: Line 6-10

Explain the following lines with reference to the context:

*And sick of prey, yet howling on for more,
Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable shore;
Treacherous in calm, and terrible in storm,
Who shall put forth on thee,
Unfathomable Sea?*

Reference: These lines have been taken from the poem "Time" written by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Context: The poem was written during the Romantic era when the poets explored nature, change and human existence. It reflects the poet's interest in the transience of life and the inevitable passage of time, emphasizing how all the things are subject to decay and transformation.

Explanation: This stanza deepens the poet's reflection on the power of time by showing how it gradually weakens and destroys all the things. It suggests that even the strongest and most beautiful aspects of life cannot escape its influence. Human achievements, emotions and natural beauty – all fade as time moves forward. It emphasizes the quiet yet unstoppable nature of this process, i.e. time does not act suddenly but it erodes everything slowly. Shelley tells the readers that nothing is permanent, and that change and decay are the parts of existence. Ultimately, the stanza reinforces the theme of life's transience and the inevitability of decline under time's control.

C. Write down the summary of the poem "Time" by P. B. Shelley.

Ans. Summary: This poem has been written by Percy Bysshe Shelley, a great Romantic poet. It compares time to a vast and dangerous sea to show how it controls human life and finally leads everyone towards death.

The poet compares the waves of the sea to passing years, suggesting that time moves endlessly and powerfully. Human sorrow and suffering are shown through the image of waters "brackish with the salt of human tears", which highlights how deeply pain is mixed with life. It describes the time as shoreless and unstoppable, enclosing the limits of mortality. Just as the sea destroys the ships, time destroys our lives. Even after consuming countless lives, time is shown as never satisfied, because it continues to vomit its "wrecks on its inhospitable shore". Shelley further emphasizes the cruel and

unpredictable nature of time by calling it "treacherous in calm, and terrible in storm". In the concluding lines, he asks a rhetorical question, suggesting that no human dares to challenge time, because it is too powerful and destructive.

Overall, the poem reflects on the helplessness of humanity before time and death. The poem leaves the reader with a sense of human helplessness and reminds that mortality is an unavoidable reality of life.

Objective Type

Spelling MCQs

(I) Choose the words with correct spellings.

Sr.	A	B	C	D
1	brakish	brackish ✓	brackesh	brackissh
2	claspest ✓	clasppest	claspast	claspist
3	eeb	ebbb	abb	ebb ✓
4	howlin	howling ✓	houling	howlling
5	shoreles	shorless	shoreless ✓	shoreliss
6	trecherous	treacharous	treacharous	treacherous ✓
7	unfathamable	unfathomable ✓	unfathmable	unfathomible
8	vomitest ✓	vomitestt	vomitist	vometest
9	weo	woee	woe ✓	woa

Meaning MCQs

(II) Choose the correct meanings of the underlined words.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	Unfathomable Sea! whose waves are years,	invisible	immeasurab le ✓	visible	deep
2	The synonym of woe is:	happiness	sleep	sorrow ✓	anger
3	Are brackish with the salt of human tears!	salty ✓	fresh	sweet	hot
4	The synonym of shoreless is:	limited	boundless ✓	small	dry
5	The word ebb means:	rise	fly	jump	recede ✓
6	The word clasp means:	grasp ✓	release	drop	ignore
7	Yet howling on for more,	smiling	laughing	screaming ✓	thinking
8	Vomitest thy wrecks	spew ✓	digest	taste	swallow
9	Treacherous in calm,	safe	deceptive ✓	kind	loyal
10	And terrible in storm,	pleasant	wonderful	unable	fearful ✓

Grammar MCQs

(III) Choose the correct option according to grammar.

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
1	"Time is a thief." This is an example of:	simile	metaphor ✓	personificati on	alliteration
2	"Fast-flying bird." The punctuation used is a:	comma	hyphen ✓	dash	colon
3	A precis should be:	longer than text	concise and clear ✓	full of examples	informal
4	"However, Therefore, Thus." These are examples of:	nouns	verbs	transitions ✓	adjectives
5	"Ocean of Time." Capitalizing "Ocean" and	emphasis ✓	mistake	a place	a name

Sr.	Statements	A	B	C	D
	"Time" indicates:				

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