

SAMUEL JOHNSON'S "LONDON"

20 JULY 11

02.07.2011

02

JUL

SATURDAY

WEEK - 27 / DAY (183-182)

① Samuel Johnson - poet, playwright, essayist

↳ During the Neo-classical era of English literature

↳ where writers looked back to the ideals and art forms of the classical times.

↳ Succeeded the Renaissance in England.

↳ Writers modelled their works on classical masterpieces and rested on "rules" laid down by classical critics.

SUNDAY 03

↳ Neo-classical Age (An Age of order and restraint)

↳ reaction developed in France in the mid-17th century.

↳ and

↳ in England, it comprised the first half of the 18th century.

↳ under the reigns of Queen Anne, King George I & King George II.

Notes

AUGUST '11

Mon	01	08	15	22	29
Tue	02	09	16	23	30
Wed	03	10	17	24	31
Thu	04	11	18	25	
Fri	05	12	19	26	
Sat	06	13	20	27	
Sun	07	14	21	28	

④ Neo-classical Age (Also known as)

AUGUSTAN AGE

→ refers to the Augustan Period of the Roman Empire
 when Latin literature and philosophy flourished.

⑤ 18th Century England :-

① war had strengthened England at home.

② Increased the size and scope of the Executive — power and prestige of the House of Commons (the lower house of the British Parliament).

③ Internal divisions made Britain vulnerable — Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

④ Differences of opinions b/w Whigs and Tories (two major parties in Great Britain, now known as the Labour and the Conservatives) — religious and foreign policy.

⑤ Manipulation by Walpole in the electoral system in 1727 and 1734.

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Sat	09 16 23 30
Sun	10 17 24 31

- ⑥ John Gay in "The Beggar's Opera" (1728) presents a satire on the ministerial corruption.
- ⑦ Politics guided the religious policies of the Age — Protestants given freedom of worship under the Toleration Act of 1689 — but were ceased from civil rights & University Education.
- ⑧ Power → depended on the possession of property.
- ⑨ No Voting Rights for women (until 1918)
- ⑩ Artificiality in Inner Tensions in the Government — undemocratic policies.
- ⑪ By the end of the Century — Britons got access to political information — were aware of the military victory and defeats, political scandals and protests — rise of the sale of newspapers and increase in journalistic reporting.

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06

06.07.2011

WEDNESDAY

WEEK - 28 / DAY (187-178)

2011 JULY

④ Neo-classical Writers

Saw themselves as readers and characters and above all, the members of the society.

"LONDON" → AN IMITATION OF THE THIRD SATIRE OF JUVENAL

↓ Juvenal wrote Satire-III

↓ a Roman Satirist

→ wrote a series of satires during the 2nd century CE

critiquing the decline and degeneration of the Roman Empire.

SATIRE-III → Describes Umbricius (Juvenal's close friend) leaving Rome to live in Campania in order to escape from the vices and dangers of Rome.

(Capital of Italy)

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Notes

In Johnson's Version:-

- ① Johnson's poem critiques the decline and degeneration of the city of London.
- ② Johnson's poem revives Juvenal's complaints against flattery, fraud, perjury, theft and rejection of the old Roman virtues and applies to the British metropolis.
- ③ Like Juvenal, Johnson is rhetorical and dramatic.

④ In the poem,

Johnson's close friend

↓
Thales

→ injured by the viciousness and folly of the city, leaving for the peace and solitude of the country, is bidding farewell to Johnson.

Notes ④ Thales representation is unknown. But is taken to be Richard Savage, a friend of Johnson who left London for Wales.

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