

To everything there is a season,

And a time to every purpose under the **heaven**;

A time to be born,

And a time to die,

A time to **plant**

And a time to **pluck up** that which is planted...

A time to break down,

And a time to build up;

A time to weep,

And a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones,

And a time to **gather** stones together;

A time to **embrace**,

And a time to **refrain** from embracing;

A time to get,

And a time to lose;

A time to keep,

And a time to cast away;

A time to **rend**,

And a time to **sew**;

A time to keep silence,

And a time to speak...

، ہر چیز کا ایک موسم ہے،

اور آسمان تلے ہر کام کا ایک مہین وقت ہے؛

پیدا ہونے کا ایک وقت

مرنے کا ایک وقت؛

ایک وقت ہے بچ بونے کا،

اور ایک وقت ہے کانٹے کا جو بویا تھا۔۔

ایک وقت ہے توڑ پھوڑ کا،

اور ایک وقت ہے تعمیر کا،

ایک وقت ہے رونے کا،

اور ایک وقت ہے رقص کرنے کا،

ایک وقت ہے پتھر پھینکے کا؛

اور ایک وقت ہے پتھر جمع کرنے،

ایک وقت ہے گلے لگانے کا؛

اور ایک وقت ہے ہم آغوش ہونے سے گریز کرنے کا؛

ایک وقت ہے کچھ پانے کا،

ایک وقت ہے کھونے کا؛

ایک وقت ہے سنبھال کر رکھنے کا،

ایک وقت ہے اسے پھینک دینے کا؛

ایک وقت ہے کچھ ادھیڑنے کا،

اور ایک وقت ہے سینے کا؛

ایک وقت ہے خاموش رہنے کا،

اور ایک وقت ہے بولنے کا۔۔

WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS	WORDS	URDU	SYNONYMS
refrain	بچنا	keep away , hold back, abstain	gather	جمع کرنا	collect, store, hoard
rend	چیرا، پھاڑنا، ٹوڑنا، فصل	tear , split, cut	sew	سینا	stitch, knit, mend
pluck up	کاٹنا	harvest , reap , gain	plant	اگانا	sow, grow, seed
heaven	آسمان	sky	embrace	گلے لگانا	hug, hold in arms

EXPLANATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT**LINES 1-4**

*To everything there is a season,
And a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born,
And a time to die,* (3 Times)

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from the poem "Times" from Ecclesiastes.

CONTEXT:

The law of pre-determination and pre-destination dominates our life. In some situations, however, man seems to be free to do anything. But what makes something meaningful or meaningless is only time.

EXPLANATION:

There is a fixed time for everything to happen. All things and events have their significance and purpose. They happen according to a strange pattern of timing. Life is an ongoing cycle of beginnings and endings, ups and downs, gains and losses. There is a God-appointed time, place and purpose for every happening. God is ultimately in control of all the happenings. Birth and death are predestined. Man has no control over his birth or death. No one can interfere with the divine scheme of things. Undoubtedly, our seasons will be a mixed bag of blessings and trials. The important thing is how we respond to the season of life we find ourselves in.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

LINES 5-8

*A time to plant,
And a time to pluck up that which is planted...
A time to break down,
And a time to build up;*

EXPLANATION:

Sowing and harvesting are conditioned with their proper timing. We cannot plant or pluck up what is planted out of season. Violation of laws of nature brings loss and ruin. Moreover, this world can be compared to sowing time and world after death can be compared to harvest time. If we perform good deeds in the world, we will get reward in the next world. Description and construction, creation and demolition take place at their fixed time. Everything, a person, a tree or a building goes through a natural process of birth, growth, decay and ultimate end. There are appropriate times for everything in the universe.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

LINES 9-12

*A time to weep,
And a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones,
And a time to gather stones together;*

(1 Time)

EXPLANATION:

Joys and sorrows are part of life. We weep and cry as well as smile and laugh. Our happiness depends upon our harmony with the laws of nature. Casting away stones and gathering them together may refer to a simple fact of life. Before a home is built we gather stones to build the house. After a home is built the excess stones are removed from the home, because they are in the way and no longer useful. This may also refer to the ancient practice of conquering the army and throwing stones in the enemy's field to render it unproductive. Alternatively, there is an appropriate time for clearing out harmful and useless things to cultivate, grow, build and protect.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

LINES 13-16

*A time to embrace,
And a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get,
And a time to lose;*

EXPLANATION:

"Embrace" means to accept and "refrain from embracing" means to reject. Acceptance and rejection of ideas and ideologies are part of thought process of human beings throughout the past ages. 'Embracing' does not merely refer to romance or conjugal love. It also stands for love, care, affection and fondness that we show to our children and our near and dear ones. Refraining from embracing provides our dependents with an opportunity to use their potential. Choice of proper time for struggle blesses us with profit while wrong timing results in loss. Success and failure, profit and loss are also part of life. There is relief beside every distress.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

LINES 17-18

*A time to keep,
And a time to cast away;*

EXPLANATION:

Clinging to customs and traditions and obeying rules and laws are also related to time factor. Backward people and nations are afraid of change. They cling to old and worn out conventions. These lines advise us to keep pace with the changing times. So, it is beneficial to accept change and to give up old and outdated laws, customs and philosophies.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

LINES 19-22

*A time to rend,
And a time to sew;
A time to keep silence,
And a time to speak...*

(3 Times)**EXPLANATION:**

Sometimes destruction is necessary for new construction. It is necessary to demolish a thing to build something new. Tearing and wearing are part of nature. 'A time to rend' may refer to times of war, grief, suffering or mourning. 'A time to sew' may refer to times when we mend, repair and fix things. When there are many words, sin is unavoidable. One who controls his lips is wise. Those who guard their tongues keep themselves from calamity. These are the golden words that tell us that it is wise to keep silence in certain situations. However, it is sinful to keep silence when we see injustice or oppression. We must raise our voice against injustice and oppression.

CRITICAL APPRECIATION:

The repetition of the word 'time' reinforces its importance in human life. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life. This peculiar pairing has a balancing effect on our life.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

Q.1 Write in your own words the critical appreciation of the poem.

Critical Appreciation

Ans. The law of pre-determination and pre-destination dominates our life. In some situations, however, man seems to be free to do anything. But what makes something meaningful or meaningless is only time. The juxtaposition of the opposites elaborates a strange parallelism in human life.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM PAST PAPERS

Q.1 What is the central idea of the poem "Times"? OR (13 Times)
 What is the importance of time in the poem "Times"? OR (7 Times)
 What is the philosophy of time elaborated in the poem "Times"? OR (1 Time)
 What does the title of the poem, "Times" signify? (1 Time)

Central idea

Ans. The law of pre-determination and pre-destination dominates our life. In some situations, man seems to be free to do anything. However, what makes something meaningful or meaningless is only time. The whole universe is disciplined and scheduled according to a set pattern of timing.

Q.2 What is Ecclesiastes? (2 Times)

Wisdom Books

Ans. Ecclesiastes is one of the Wisdom Books of the Christian Old Testament. The actual author of Ecclesiastes is unknown. However, King Solomon, the son of David, is supposed to be the author of Ecclesiastes, who was a seeker on a quest for the meaning and purpose of life.

Q.3 Give two examples to prove that for every happening there is a time. (1 Time)

A Time to Keep Silence and to Speak

Ans. The poet says that there is a time to keep silence and a time to speak. These are the golden words that tell us that it is wise to keep silence in certain situations. However, it is sinful to keep silence when we see injustice or oppression. We must raise our voice against injustice and oppression.

Q.4 What kind of delights do we miss in our daily life because of lack of time? (1 Time)

The Delights That We Miss

Ans. The delights that we miss in our daily life because of lack of time are many. These delights include the sweet time we cannot spend with our near and dear ones. We do not have time to enjoy the wonders and beauties of nature.

Q.5 How do you explain "a time to rend and a time to sew"? (1 Time)

Tearing and Mending

Ans. 'A time to rend' literally means a time to tear something. It may refer to times of war, grief, suffering or mourning. 'A time to sew' may refer to times when we mend, repair and fix things. So, tearing and mending is a natural process in the universe.

TEXTBOOK EXERCISE

1. **A time to be born and a time to _____.**
 (a) enjoy (c) die
 (b) play (d) sleep
2. **A time to break down and a time to _____.**
 (a) destroy (e) demolish
 (b) pull down (d) build up
3. **A time to weep and a time to _____.**
 (a) dance (c) drink
 (b) eat (d) walk
4. **A time to get and a time to _____.**
 (a) achieve (c) lose
 (b) benefit (d) gain
5. **A time to keep silence and a time to _____.**
 (a) tell (c) think
 (b) whisper (d) speak

ANSWER KEY

1.	C	2.	D	3.	A	4.	C	5.	C
----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---

MORE MCQS FOR PRACTICE

1. **A time to embrace and a time to _____ from embracing.**
 (a) avoid (c) enjoy
 (b) refrain (d) prevent
2. **There is a time to keep and a time to _____.**
 (a) withdraw (c) spend
 (b) save (d) cast away
3. **There is a time to rend and a time to _____.**
 (a) harvest (c) sew
 (b) tear (d) bend
4. **There is a time to every purpose under the _____.**
 (a) earth (c) heaven
 (b) paradise (d) hell
5. **The poem 'Times' emphasizes _____.**
 (a) heaven (c) punctuality
 (b) seasons (d) change

ANSWER KEY

1.	B	2.	D	3.	C	4.	C	5.	C
----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---

SYNONYMS FROM PAST PAPERS

1. A time to rend and a time to sew. (3 Times)
 (a) buy (b) sell (c) tear (d) wear
2. There is a time to pluck up that which is planted. (3 Times)
 (a) harvest (b) sow (c) sow (d) ascend
 (a) tide up (b) reap (c) tend (d) grown
3. A time to refrain from embracing. (3 Times)
 (a) keep away (b) reconsider (c) ready (d) love
4. A time to cast away stones. (2 Times)
 (a) pull (b) push (c) break (d) throw away
5. No time to see beneath the boughs. (1 Time)
 (a) over (b) above (c) under (d) near

ANSWER KEY

1.	C	2.	A/B	3.	A	4.	D	5.	C
----	---	----	-----	----	---	----	---	----	---

MORE SYNONYMS FOR PRACTICE

1. There is a time to every purpose under the heaven.
 (a) ambition (c) aim
 (b) demand (d) meaning
2. There is a time to embrace.
 (a) include (c) mend
 (b) repair (d) hold
3. A time to rend and a time to sew;
 (a) blend (c) hew
 (b) mend (d) plant
4. And a time to every purpose under the heaven.
 (a) sky (c) roof
 (b) ceiling (d) planet
5. There is a time to plant.
 (a) grow (c) irrigate
 (b) reap (d) harvest

ANSWER KEY

1.	C	2.	D	3.	B	4.	A	5.	A
----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	----	---