

# **SEM 3- BA PROGRAM**

## **DSC 1C ~**

### **BRITISH POETRY AND DRAMA**

Teacher -PD (As per timetable )

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Please read the text of the poem written by W Wordsworth. As discussed in the introduction to the paper please go through the link and study the background.

The text is in this email.

## UNIT 2-

### 4 POEMS

#### POEM 1

*Composed upon Westminster Bridge By William Wordsworth*



Earth has not anything to show more fair:

**Dull** would he be of soul who could pass by

**A sight so touching in its majesty:**

This City now **doth like a garment wear**

The beauty of the morning; **silent** , bare,

**Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples** lie

Open unto the fields, and to the sky,

All **bright and glittering** in the **smokeless** air.

**Never did the sun more beautifully steep**

In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;

**Ne'er saw I, never felt a calm so deep!**

The **river glideth** at his own sweet will:

**Dear God!** the **very houses seem asleep;**

And **all that mighty heart is lying** still!

## BACKGROUND OF THE AGE



# Introduction





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[www.alamy.com](http://www.alamy.com)

19th cent London

## Social and Family Life in the Late 17th & Early 18th Centuries

In the period between the 1670's and 1750's, sweeping changes transformed both the public social lives and private family lives of the British people. Increased literacy, combined with The Restoration led the British people to an increasingly public life. There were also clear class distinctions that were prevalent in the realms of both home life, outward social life, and education. New developments in recreation, commercialization, and industrialization also led to a transformation in both entertainment and occupations available. Additionally, new fashion trends came onto the scene. This page explores the social structure of Britain, its impact on life, both private and public, as well as the new developments that changed the way the people spent their leisure time.



There was a clear gap between the wealthy and the poor, which made itself visible in almost all aspects of life, but there were certain areas where class was unimportant.

## Social Class Structure

### Wealthy Landowners

This was the most powerful group, which made up the smallest amount of the population. It included the most important of the aristocracy and squires.

### Gentry

This included those who received a high standard of upbringing but were not as important as the upper echelon of wealth. This included: gentlemen, merchants, wealthy tradesmen, and well-off manufacturers.

### Yeoman

Yeoman were those who owned and worked their own land. They are also better known as “freeholders.”

### Middle Class

A newer rung on the social ladder came to be known as the blooming middle class comprised about 15% of the population. The upper middle class included certain professionals and merchants. The lower middle class

included artisans, shopkeepers, and tradesmen.

### Laboring Poor

This comprised almost 25% percent of the population and it included all who worked in rural areas, did menial jobs, and the “urban laboring poor,” who worked in the country side.

### Black Britons

Though they made up a small portion of the population, black slaves existed and were a hot issue during the early half of the century. Their labor made commodities available and cheap, but the idea of slavery as wrong was extremely prevalent. No matter the protest, though, the labor and trade continued until its abolition in 1833.

Though this class structure was almost always set from birth and heavily protected by those were already inducted into high social standing, it was not impossible for those of lower status to break through. Everyone was mainly subject to the same body of law as everyone else and certain privileges for ruling classes only went so far. Property was the key to wealth and power, and property could be purchased. So, any man could amass a fortune and land, and begin to climb the social ladder; and any family could lose all of its estate and see their social standing vanish.



Reference - <https://sites.udel.edu/britlitwiki/social-and-family-life-in-the-late17th-early-18th-centuries/>