

The Classical Movement(1660 to 1750):

It is known by various titles which are as follows:

1. The Classical Movement with reference to the standards it preached
2. The Augustan age; it resembled that of the Emperor Augustus in the splendor of its literature. Dr. Johnson compared Dryden's work for English Letters and Augustus's efforts for the upliftment of Rome "found bricks and left marble".
3. The age of Reason and Good Sense
4. Restoration Age, Charles II was restored to the throne(1660). His father Charles two was beheaded in 1649; he was against parliament of England, polices were against the common people, levied taxes without parliamentary consent, believed in divine rights of kings, married a roman catholic, antagonist to protestants and puritans, tyrannical monarch, was defeated in the English civil war and surrendered to Scottish Parliament and English army. Loss of Monarchy and establishment of Commonwealth. Monarchy was restored in 1660.

5. Pseudo classical Age

6. Neo Classical Age

Metaphysical age exhausted itself in the middle of 17th century.

Drawing inspiration from Greek and Latin Classics made available to them by the Renaissance

Renaissance: The **Renaissance** is a period in European History, covering the span between the 14th and 17th centuries and marking the transition from the middle ages to modernity. The Renaissance began in Florence, Italy, in the 14th century. Various theories have been proposed to account for its origins and characteristics, focusing on a variety of factors including the social and civic peculiarities of Florence at the time: its political structure; the patronage of its dominant family, the Medici¹ and the migration of Greek Scholars and texts to Italy following the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks. Other major centres were northern Italian City-states such as Venice, Genoa, Milan, Bologna, and finally Rome during the Renaissance Papacy.

Influence of French Literature: Charles II stayed in France for a long time. When he was restored to the throne brought along French literary tastes and it accelerated return to greater restraint and more rigid framework in literature.

Influenced by the Classical Literature they had great respect for the correctness in life and art, they respected order, decorum, and the established rules. Art was valued for its praise of reason, and its control of emotions and the imagination. They used satire and irony.

Seneca provided a model for tragedy, Plautus and Terence for comedy, Virgil for epic and pastoral, Juvenal for Satire, and Horace, with his *Ars Poetica* for literary taste and criticism.

Edmund Waller and Sir John Denham were the pioneer and forerunners of the Classical Movements. Dryden and Pope were masters of this movement.

Characteristics:

1. Respect for Rules

2. Intellectual Quality

3. Insistence on a set Poetic Style

4. Emergence of the Heroic Couplet

5. Treatment of Town Life

CONCLUSION: Classicism in literature reached its peak before 1750, and thereafter it was challenged and overthrown by Romanticism. While Classicism reigned, the same characteristics that informed painting, architecture, and music held sway: order, regularity, and rationality. Moreover, during this time there emerged a print culture immersed in a broader consumer revolution. Magazines, newspapers, and popular books were consumed by an increasingly public-minded audience of aristocrats and middle-class men, and through printed matter of all kinds they were immersed in Enlightenment ideas. Gradually, with their readers they fashioned what has become known as “public opinion.” Some writers, such as the French man of letters Voltaire (1694–1778) or the British poet [Alexander Pope](#) (1688–1744), earned fortunes from their pens in this emergent market society while they embodied and widely disseminated Enlightenment ideas and values to this new public. Pope’s poetry remained popular among some readers during the second half of the eighteenth century. His poem *An Essay on Man* (1733–1734) provides a clear illustration of the Classical assumption that good poetry starts from a clear idea and gives it form. [Samuel Johnson](#) (1709–1784), recognized as an authority on Classicism, added that good poets “must not dwell on the minuter distinctions by which one species differs from another” but should instead always strive for the general and the universal that bind species together.

THANK YOU