

**Degree 2 (mb) Marks**

**Subject- English**

**Group A (Novel)**

## ***David Copperfield by Charles Dickens***

Charles Dickens was born near Portsmouth, England, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1812. He was the second of eight children, whose father John was a clerk for the Navy, although Charles Dickens had an idyllic early family life, his father was a poor manager of money and got into financial difficulties. Eventually, he was put in prison, where his family later joined him. It was common in those days for the family of the debtor to live with him in prison. Charles was taken out of school and went to work putting labels on bottles of shoe polish. He worked for long hours for little money and lived away from his family, alone in London. He became a clerk in a lawyer's office when he was fifteen and also worked as a reporter in the evening. At 18, he fell in love with a pretty and careless girl, but the affair ended unhappily for Dickens after three years.

These events from his early life affected him deeply and he used these experiences to write his novels. Dickens wrote about David Copperfield, his eight novels, "*of all my books I like this the best*". It is largely autobiographical and was published in monthly parts

between May 1849 and November 1850. Dickens wrote a total of fourteen complete novels and died in 1870 before completing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. He is buried in Westminster Abbey in London.

The present novel, *David Copperfield* tells about the challenges and consequences of life, which is full of pain and anxieties. Here life is full of changes for young **David Copperfield**. This novel tells us that how the protagonist David react to the cruelty, the neglect and loss he experiences as a boy, and how he will find the love and security which he is searching for.

**First, let us be familiar with some major characters of the of the novel.**

**David Copperfield-** he is the central character in the novel and tells the story of his life from birth to adulthood.

**Clara Copperfield-** David' mother. She is an attractive, tender person but impractical and emotional and easily take in by Mr. Murdstone, who marries her because he is interested in her annuity.

**Clara Peggotty-** the Copperfield's housekeeper, who also acts as David' nurse.

**Mr Murdstone-** David's stepfather. A dark handsome man who cruelly beats David and slowly drives David's mother to an early death.

**Uriah Heep-** a two faced conniving villain who put on a false show of humility and meekness to disguise his evil intentions.

**Mr Micawber-** a constantly impoverished, but always optimistic, gentleman who boards David during his stay in London.

**Aunt Betsey-** David's great aunt. She is unhappy that David was born a boy instead of a girl, but later she acts as his guardian and provider during his early years of schooling.

**Agnes-** the daughter of Mr. Wickfield; David' second wife.

**Emily-** Mr peggotty's orphaned niece.

**Mr. Wickfield-** a solicitor and the widowed father of Agnes Wickfield.

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