

29 July  
Wed

(1)

classmate

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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B.A Part III Hon  
Paper VI<sup>TH</sup>

Q. Write critical appreciation of Gray's poem 'An Elegy written in a country church'.

Ans. Gray's production is so scanty and so much of it is in a very minor mode, that may well wonder why he seems to be occupy such a key position in English poetry. True he happened to be write one of the greatest poems in the language; but he only did it once, and it is hard to believe, if it were not for the Elegy, that we should be very interested in the rest of his poetry, except in the of historical iousity. The picture Gray's that emerges in the letter is that a

very vigorous and happy  
 one. He was charitable,  
 generous of his time and  
 trouble, devoted to his  
 friends as they were to  
 him, but he suffered  
 from constitutional  
 melancholy.

Many of his  
 literary projects were  
 abandoned, and were  
 undertaken in a spirit  
 almost of resigned  
 hopelessness.

The greatness of  
 the Elogy in a Country  
 Churchyard no one has  
 ever doubted, but many  
 have had to put to it to  
 explain in what its  
 greatness consists. It is easy  
 to point out that  
 thought is some way,  
 that it distinguishes an elogy  
 we are carried, not but

but unappreciated, and to  
no one else is immed-  
ately recognizable great-  
ness has slipped in.  
She Elzgy was most to  
preferably begun soon  
after the death of  
Gray's closest friend West,  
some reminiscences of  
Whom remain in the  
conclusion of the poem.  
West had been Gray's  
dearest friend and  
confidant, and like  
himself a melancholy  
and hypochondriac young  
man. The "youth to  
parture and fame unknown"  
of the closing aptly  
might be either G. West  
and Gray himself, and is,  
indeed by a process  
familiar to dream analyst  
analysts a sort of  
fusion of the two  
To be continued