

# Oliver Goldsmith

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**E-material for B.A.II sem,**

**English, Paper-II**

## Introduction

- Oliver Goldsmith was one of the greatest writers of the eighteenth century.
- He was born on 10 Nov. 1728 in Ireland.
- He studied at Trinity College, Dublin.
- He settled in London in 1756.

## Career

- He started his literary career as an essayist, biographer, poet, novelist and dramatist.

## Contribution to English Literature

- He contributed to the *Monthly Review* in 1757.
- He began to publish a series of letters in the *Public Ledger* under the title of the *Citizen of the World* in 1760.
- These letters were supposed to be written by an imaginary Chinese traveller in England named Lien Chi.
- He aimed to comment on British society and manners through these letters.
- He wrote his famous novel *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and his popular comedy *She Stoops to Conquer*.

## Features of his essay

- His essays describe his lovable personality, simplicity, sweetness and originality of ideas.

- His art of characterization shows his minute power of observation of man and human nature.
- He has expressed his thoughts in simple style.
- There is clarity of his style.
- There is spontaneity in his style.

### **An Essayist who links Eighteenth and nineteenth century**

- He is regarded as an essayist who bridges rationalism of the eighteenth century and the romanticism of the nineteenth century.