

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA
(A Residential Autonomous College under University of Calcutta)

First year
First-Semester Examination, December 2010

Date : 15-12-2010

ENGLISH (Honours)

Full Marks : 100

Time : 11am – 3pm

Paper - I

(Use separate answer script for each group)

Group – A

1. Answer any one of the following questions in about 550 words : [15]
 - a) Would you say that Beowulf presents a perfect combination of social contextualising and heroic virtues as demanded by the ideals of the classical epic? Discuss in detail.
 - b) What was the impact of Christianity on Old English literature? Discuss with special reference to either Caedmon or Cynewulf.

2. Briefly show your acquaintance with any one of the following in about 200 words : [6]
 - a) Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.
 - b) Battle of Maldon

3. Answer any two questions out of the following : [2×2 = 4]
 - a) Name two books translated by Alfred.
 - b) Give the names of at least two Christian heroines found in Anglo-Saxon poetry.
 - c) Name the major manuscripts in which most of the Anglo-Saxon poems have been found.

4. Answer any one of the following in about 550 words : [15]
 - a) Assess the importance of Chaucer in the history of English poetry.
 - b) Trace the development of early English drama up to the Morality play.

5. Write a short note on any one of the following in about 200 words : [6]
 - a) Romance of the Rose
 - b) Gawaine and the Green Knight.

6. Answer any two of the following : [2×2 = 4]
 - a) Explain the title of “The Owl and the Nightingale”.
 - b) Give the full title of Langland’s best-known poem.
 - c) What is meant by the Alliterative Revival?

Group – B

1. Answer any one of the following questions within 550 words : [15×1 = 15]
 - a) Make a critical assessment of the nature and extent of the Scandinavian influence on the Old English language.
 - b) Give an account of the French loan words relating to law, administration, church, army, art and architecture that entered the English language after the Norman Conquest.
 - c) Show how new words are formed in English from native resources through some ‘regular processes’ of word formation with special emphasis on any two processes.

2. Answer any one of the following questions within 200 words : [5×1 = 5]
- Examine Grim's law with suitable examples.
 - Free and Fixed compounds
3. Answer any one of the following questions within 400 words : [10×1 = 10]
- Assess the contribution of Shakespeare towards enriching the English language.
 - Write an essay on the purpose of the use of English as a means of meaningful communication by the various English translations of the Bible.
 - 'In some ways it will appear that the recent American influence has done something to revitalize and invigorate British English'. (Wrenn) Discuss the nature of the American influence on the English language in the light of this statement.
4. Answer any one of the following within 200 words : [5×1 = 5]
- Show how imitations and misunderstandings of the phrases coined by Shakespeare have contributed to the English vocabulary.
 - Discuss, with suitable illustrations, how American slang has influenced the colloquial English of the younger generation in Britain.
5. Answer any one of the following questions within 250 words : [7×1 = 7]
- Show with the help of a diagram the organs of speech and describe their functions.
 - Explain the term 'phoneme' with suitable illustrations from English and add a note on 'allophones'.
6. Make phonetic transcriptions of any eight of the following words : [1×8 = 8]
oven, caught, engineering, cure, pronunciation, pleasure, Vaughan, quiet, career, you