

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous Degree College with P.G. Section under University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.SC. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2011

FIRST YEAR

ENGLISH (Honours)

Date : 24/05/2011

Time : 11 am – 3 pm

Paper : II

Full Marks : 100

[Use separate Answer Scripts for each group]

Group – A

1. Write short notes on any three of the following literary terms. (Word limit : 200 words) [3×5 = 15]
Imagery, Symbol, Point of view, Ballad, Allegory, Pastoral
2. Identify and explain the figures of speech in the following passage : [10]
O wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn's being,
Though, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead
Are driven, like ghosts from an enchanter fleeing,
Yellow, and black, and pale, and hectic red
3. Scan the passage below and name the metre with variations, if any : [10]
Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire;
The blue deep thou wingest,
And singing still dost soar, and soaring ever singest.
4. Critically analyse any one of the following passages. [15]
 - a) The flower that smiles to-day
To-morrow dies;
All that we wish to stay
Tempt and then flies;
What is this world's delight?
Lightning that mocks the night,
Brief even as bright.

Virtue, how frail it is!
Friendship how rare!
Love, how it sells poor bliss
For proud despair!
But we, though soon they fall
Survive their joy, and all
Which ends we call.

Whilst skies are blue and bright
Whilst flowers are gay,
Whilst eyes that change ere night
Make glad the day;
Whilst yet the calm hours creep
Dream thou and from thy sleep
Thou wake to weep.

- b) Photography implies that we know about the world if we accept it as the camera records it. But this is the opposite of understanding, which starts from not accepting the world as it looks. All possibility of understanding is rooted in the ability to say no. Strictly speaking, one never understands anything from a photograph. Of course, photographs fill in the blanks in our mental pictures, of the present and the past; for example, Jacob Riis's images of New York squalor in the 1880s are sharply instructive to those unaware that urban poverty in late nineteenth-century America was really this Dickensian. Nevertheless, the camera's rendering of reality must always hide more than it discloses. As Brecht points out, a photograph, of the Krupp works reveals virtually nothing about that organization. In contrast to the amorous relation, which is based on how something looks, understanding is based on how it functions. And functioning takes place in time, and must be explained in time. Only that which narrates can make us understand.

Group – B

1. Answer any one of the following questions : (word limit : 150) [4]
 - a) Explain in brief the meaning of the term 'Renaissance'.
 - b) What was the impact of humanism on English society?
 - c) Write a short note on the Civil War in England (1642 – 48)
2. Answer any one of the following questions : (Word limit : 400) [10]
 - a) Assess the contribution of the University Wits to the development of English drama.
 - b) Do you agree with the view that the fictional prose of the Elizabethan period contributes significantly to the rise of the novel in the eighteenth century? Give reasons for your answer.
 - c) In what way was metaphysical poetry innovative? Discuss with reference to the poetry of any three representative poets.
3. Answer any one of the following questions : (Word limit : 450) [12]
 - a) Critically analyse either Wyatt's 'Farewell Love' or Sidney's 'Loving in Truth'.
 - b) How does Shakespeare treat the Sonnet Conventions in his sonnet sequence?
 - c) How does Marvel treat the 'carpe diem' theme in 'To his Coy Mistress'?
4. Answer any one of the following questions : (word limit : 450) [12]
 - a) Critically analyse either 'Of Studies' or 'Of Truth' as a representative essay of Bacon.
 - b) Bring out the distinctive features of Bacon's prose style with reference to 'Of Truth'.
5. Answer any one of the following questions : (word limit : 450) [12]
 - a) Comment on Marlowe's portrayal of the character of Dr. Faustus as a Renaissance overreacher.
 - b) What features of the Morality tradition do you find in Dr. Faustus.