

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College under University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.Sc. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2014

FIRST YEAR

ENGLISH (Honours)

Date : 23/05/2014

Time : 11 am – 3 pm

Paper : II

Full Marks : 100

(Use a separate Answer Book for each group)

Group – A

1. Write a note on **any four** of the following terms : [4×5]
(a) Blank verse (b) Plot (c) Imagery (d) Epic
(e) Satire (f) Sonnet (g) Ballad (h) Stream of Consciousness
2. Identify and explain the figures of speech used in **any three** of the following passages : [3×5]
 - a) Let sea-discoverers to the new worlds have gone,
Let maps to other worlds on worlds have shown,
Let us possess one world, each hath one and is one.
 - b) We look before and after,
And pine for what is not;
Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.
 - c) Can storied urn or animated fust
Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?
Can Honour's voice provoke the silent dust,
Or Flattery soothe the dull cold ear of Death?
 - d) Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee: She is a fen of stagnant waters ...
 - e) I leant upon a coppice gate
When frost was spectre-gray,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled vine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres
And all mankind that haunted high
And sought their household fires.
3. Critically analyse **any one** of the following : [15]
 - a) The world's a stage. The trifling entrance fee
Is paid (by proxy) to the registrar
The orchestra is very loud and free
But plays no music in particular.
They do not print a programme, that I know.
The cast is large. There isn't any plot.
The acting of the piece is far below
The very worst of modernistic rot.
The only part about it I enjoy
Is what was called in English the foyer
There will I stand apart while and toy

With thought, and set my cigarette alight;
And then-without returning to the play—
On with my coat and out into the night.
(foyer : lobby of a theatre)

- b) Some years ago, a story was making the rounds in the academic circles and was received in good humour by all the enlightened teachers of literature. A professor of English in a prestigious American University, so the story goes, entered the classroom one day and announced that the poem under consideration was to be Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress". He then proceeded for the next fifty minutes to discuss Marvell's politics, religion, and career. He described Marvell's character, mentioned that he was respected by friend and foe alike, and speculated on whether he was married. At this point the bell rang, signalling the end of the class. The professor closed his sheaf of notes, looked up, smiling, and concluded, "Damn' fine poem, men. Damn' fine."

The story was told to ridicule the type of criticism that once dominated the study of literature and that is still employed in some classrooms even today. In this approach the work of art frequently appeared to be of secondary importance, something that merely illustrated background. Such an approach often (many would say inevitably) led to the study of literature as essentially biography, history, or some other brand of learning, rather than as art.

Group - B

4. Write a note on **any one** of the following : [5]
a) Studia Humanitatis
b) Scientific discoveries during the Renaissance
c) The ideal Renaissance man

5. Assess the contribution of the University Wits to the development of English drama. [15]

Or,

"The most heterogeneous elements are yoked together in metaphysical love poetry." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer with reference to either Donne or Marvell.

Or,

Discuss the major works of prose fiction written in the Elizabethan period. How did they facilitate the development of the novel proper?

6. Comment on the significance of Shakespeare's imagery in his sonnets. Answer with reference to any one of the sonnets prescribed for you study. [15]

Or,

Show how the images employed by Marvell reduce the argumentative and syllogistic structure of the poem "To His Coy Mistress".

Or,

Critically appreciate Sidney's "Loving in Truth"

7. Evaluate the character of Dr Faustus in light of the last scene of the play. [15]

Or,

Consider *Doctor Faustus* as a morality play.



Note :

Marks	Word Limit
5	250-600
15	550 - 600