

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College under University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.Sc. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, JANUARY 2015

FIRST YEAR

ENGLISH (Honours)

Paper : I

Date : 05/01/2015

Time : 11 am – 3 pm

Full Marks : 100

[Use a separate Answer book for each group]

Group – A

1. Answer **any eight** questions of the following : (8 × 2)
 - a) When was the Battle of Maldon fought? What was the outcome of the Battle?
 - b) On which monument are some lines from 'The Dream of the Rood' engraved? Where is this monument?
 - c) Who was Grendel? What role did Grendel play in Beowulf?
 - d) When was the Battle of Brunanburh fought? Who won the battle?
 - e) To whom does Beowulf leave the kingship of the Geats? Why does Beowulf choose him as his successor?
 - f) List any two of the surviving Old English poetic codices.
 - g) Name the three estates in medieval feudal society.
 - h) Who is Piers Plowman? What is his 'Vision'?
 - i) What is the name of King Arthur's court in the Arthurian legends? Who is Arthur's wife?
 - j) Name any two of the 'Tales' included in The Canterbury Tales.
 - k) Who introduced the printing press to England? When?
 - l) Why was the year 1066 so important in the history of English literature?
2. Answer **any one** question of the following : (1 × 17)
 - a) How does Middle English Poetry differ from its Anglo Saxon counterpart? Briefly discuss.
 - b) Assess **either** Aelfric **or** Wulfstan as writers of Old English prose.
3. Answer **any one** question of the following : (1 × 17)
 - a) Critically comment on the Prologue to The Canterbury Tales. How far does it convey the import of Chancer's poem?
 - b) Discuss the features of the Miracle plays and the Moralities showing their importance in the history of English drama.

Group – B

4. Answer **any two** questions of the following : (2 × 10)
 - a) "One of the most characteristic features of Shakespeare's use of the English language is his boldness." Justify the remark.
 - b) Show with suitable illustrations how the Bible has influenced the English language.
 - c) Assess the impact of French influence on the development of the English language.
 - d) In what ways does American vocabulary diverge from its British counterpart? Briefly discuss.
5. Answer **any one** question of the following : (1 × 15)
 - a) What is meant by the Indo-European family of languages? Comment on the 'branches' of this group.
 - b) What were the spheres of human knowledge or activity in which the Scandinavians were able to teach the English? Answer with reference to Scandinavian loan words in English.
6. Write word notes on **any five** of the following : (3 × 5)

cab, bishop, bread, gift, egg, dream, picture, church, pea, pickpocket.

