



'समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी'

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL  
B.A. Honours 2nd Semester Examination, 2023

CC4-ENGLISH

BRITISH LITERATURE: OLD ENGLISH PERIOD TO 14TH CENTURY

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 60

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

1. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 15×1 = 15
  - (a) Assess the contribution of Caedmon and Cynewulf to the development of Old English Christian poetry.
  - (b) How far would you agree with the observation that the literary prose in Old English is mostly made up of translations and paraphrases of Latin writings? Argue your answer.
  - (c) Is it justified to say that the Morality and the Miracle plays as well as the Interludes heralded the drama proper in England? Argue your answer.
  
2. Answer any **three** from the following questions: 10×3 = 30
  - (a) Examine Beowulf as an epic hero.
  - (b) How are Christian and Pagan elements intermingled in *Beowulf*? Answer with appropriate illustrations.
  - (c) Examine *Piers the Plowman* as an allegory.
  - (d) Analyse the structure of *Piers the Plowman*.
  - (e) How does the "Prologue" to *The Wife of Bath's Tale* offer social criticism?
  - (f) Critically consider Chaucer's use of irony in the "Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*.
  
3. Answer any **three** from the following questions: 5×3 = 15
  - (a) Describe, in brief, the fight between Beowulf and Grendel.
  - (b) Briefly comment on the character of Wealhtheow in *Beowulf*.
  - (c) What was Will's first vision in his dream?
  - (d) Comment on the ending of *Piers the Plowman*.
  - (e) How did Chaucer portray the Knight in the "Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*?
  - (f) Summarize Alison's relationship with her fifth husband.

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**GE1-P2-ENGLISH**

**SELECTIONS FROM EUROPEAN LITERATURE**

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 60

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

**GROUP-A**

1. Answer any *two* of the following questions: 10×2 = 20

(a) Elaborate on the autobiographical elements found in Shakespeare's sonnets prescribed on your syllabus.

**OR**

(b) Critically appreciate Sonnet No. 65 by Shakespeare.

(c) Critically estimate "Daffodils" as a nature poem.

**'OR**

(d) Evaluate Wordsworth as a Romantic Poet with reference to the Lucy Poems.

(e) Assess "The Unknown Citizen" as a critique of modern society.

**OR**

(f) Attempt a critical appreciation of W. H. Auden's "Autumn Song".

**GROUP-B**

2. Answer any *two* of the following questions: 10×2 = 20

(a) Comment on Woolf's narrative technique in "The Duchess and the Jeweller".

**OR**

(b) Evaluate the short story "The Duchess and the Jeweller" as a critique of the contemporary society.

(c) Discuss the role and function of the narrator in "Shooting an Elephant".

**OR**

(d) Discuss the major themes of Orwell's "Shooting an Elephant".

(e) Examine the appropriateness of the title of "The Magic Shop".

**OR**

(f) Delineate the character of Gip in "The Magic Shop".

(g) Comment on the portrayal of Vera in "Open Window".

OR

(h) Critically estimate "Open Window" as a short story.

GROUP-C

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions:

10×1 = 10

(a) Comment on the character of Lady Macbeth.

OR

(b) Critically consider the dramatic significance of the Sleepwalking Scene in *Macbeth* (Act 5, Scene 1).

(c) Discuss *Twelfth Night* as a romantic comedy.

OR

(d) Comment on the role of Feste in *Twelfth Night*.

GROUP-D

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions:

5×2 = 10

(a) Bring out the central theme of Shakespeare's Sonnet No. 64.

(b) Describe the poet's thoughts on seeing the daffodils.

(c) Comment on Auden's use of epitaph in "The Unknown Citizen".

(d) "Fair is foul, and foul is fair"—Elucidate.

(e) "Dost thou think because thou art virtuous  
There shall be no more cakes and ale?"

What prompts the speaker to say this?

(f) What does the title "Twelfth Night" allude to?

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CC3-ENGLISH

INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE AND INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10
- (a) The idea of Dharma is central to *The Mahabharata*. Discuss with reference to the sections prescribed in the syllabus.
- OR
- (b) Analyse the moral and ethical dilemma of Karna in *The Mahabharata*.
- (c) How far is the title of *Abhijnana Shakuntalam* justified? Elaborate.
- OR
- (d) Assess the role of Nature in *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*.
- (e) Would you consider *Mrcchakatika* to be a play about a distinct redefinition of love? Argue your answer.
- OR
- (f) Write a critical note on the character of Charudatta as presented in *Mrcchakatika*.
2. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Justify the title of Anita Desai's *In Custody*.
- OR
- (b) What are the main themes that Anita Desai deals with in the novel *In Custody*?
- (c) Examine R. K. Narayan's depiction of youth, innocence and friendship in *Swami and Friends*.
- OR
- (d) Comment on the portrayal of the women characters in *Swami and Friends*.
3. Answer any **two** from the following questions: 5×2 = 10
- (a) What is the significance of the Court scene (Act IX) in *Mrcchakatika*?
- (b) Briefly discuss Rishi Kanva's counsels to Shakuntala regarding a happy marital life.

- (c) What preparations did Swaminathan make for Rajam's visit to his house?
- (d) What were the reasons of animosity between Mani and Rajam?
- (e) Comment briefly on the significance of the game of dice in *The Mahabharata*.
- (f) Provide a brief character sketch of Murad.

4. Answer any **one** from the following questions:

10×1 = 10

- (a) Bring out the elements of melancholy underlying "My Grandmother's House".
- (b) Consider Derozio as a "carrier of modern values of justice, freedom and equality" with special reference to "Freedom to the Slave".
- (c) Evaluate Nissim Ezekiel as a modern poet with reference to the poems on your syllabus.
- (d) Critically appreciate Mahapatra's "Hunger".

5. Answer any **one** from the following questions:

10×1 = 10

- (a) Evaluate Rushdie as a post-colonial writer with reference to "The Free Radio".
- (b) Assess "The Intrusion" as a feminist text.
- (c) Analyse the character and role of Lalla Jhinda Ram in "Two Lady Rams".
- (d) Comment on Rohinton Mistry's depiction of Indian diaspora in "Swimming Lesson".

6. Answer any **two** from the following questions:

5×2 = 10

- (a) Describe the narrator's first day experience of his swimming lessons.
- (b) What is the setting of "Dawn at Puri"?
- (c) Bring out the central idea of "The Orphan Girl".
- (d) How did the peasants respond to the stinging in "The Night of the Scorpion"?
- (e) "I, too call myself I"— Explain with reference to the context.
- (f) What happens when Sir Jhinda arrives with his two wives at the Government House?
- (g) Comment on the ending of "The Free Radio".
- (h) Why does the husband in "The Intrusion" feel that his wife has been avoiding him?

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