

**West Bengal State University**  
**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2012**  
**Part - I**

**ENGLISH — GENERAL**  
**Paper - I**  
**( CASUAL CANDIDATES )**

Duration : 3 Hours

[ Maximum Marks : 100

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 3 × 16 = 48
- a) Why does the poet William Shakespeare consider his friend to be superior to a summer's day in his Sonnet XVIII ? Explain with close reference to the text.
  - b) Narrate the Parable of Talents and show how Milton makes use of it in his sonnet *On His Blindness*.
  - c) Examine Wordsworth's attitude to Nature with close reference to the poem *Three Years She Grew ...*
  - d) Describe the images through which Shelley gives his impression of the skylark, in his poem *To A Skylark*.
  - e) Consider *Ulysses* as a representative poem of the Victorian age and its spirit of adventure.
  - f) Consider Browning's *The Last Ride Together* as a remarkable example of dramatic monologue.
  - g) Justify the title of the poem *Futility*.
  - h) Write a critical appreciation of the poem *Look Stranger* by W. H. Auden.

2. Answer any six of the following questions :

6 × 2 = 12

- a) Explain 'So long lives this, and this gives life to thee'.
- b) How does Patience advise the poet in the sonnet *On His Blindness* ?
- c) What has been described as 'Kind Nature's gentlest boon' by Wordsworth and why ?
- d) 'Thy music doth surpass.' Whose music is referred to ? What does it surpass and how ?
- e) 'Until they think warm days will never cease.' Who are referred to as 'they' ? Why would they think so ?
- f) 'He works his work, I mine.' Who is 'he' referred to here ? What work of his is suggested here ?
- g) Explain the significance of the line — 'The instant made eternity'.
- h) 'Mysterious, beautiful.'  
Who have been referred to as 'mysterious beautiful' ? Why have they been so called ?
- i) 'The kind old sun will know.' Why is the sun called 'kind' and 'old' ?
- j) What does the poet say about the 'hedgerow' and the 'postes' in *When I Lie Where Shades of Darkness* ?

3. Make a precis of the following passage and add a suitable title :

16 + 4 = 20

Let our young men and women become Indians in the true sense of the word, and not provincials. If our friends living in Madras prefer coffee to tea, then let us at least taste coffee and try to acquire a liking for it. If our friends living in Bengal prefer tea to coffee, let our Madras friends cultivate a liking for an occasional cup of tea. We should not boast that because we belong to a particular province, we would rather die than eat or drink the favourite food or beverages of our countrymen of other provinces. If we can show a united front about such little things, we shall be able to face the world united in our aims and objects. We shall create a United India in the real sense of the term.

We must also try to use a language which is understood throughout our land, let it be Hindi or English, or whatever you will. Moreover, many people are inclined to believe that provincialism fosters communalism which is a very serious application. Let us have kindly feelings towards our fellow citizens of whatever religion or community they may be. If all of us take this lesson to heart, the future of our country will be fully assured.

4. Identify and explain the figures of speech in any four of the following :  $4 \times 3 = 12$
- To follow knowledge like a sinking star.
  - Variety is the spice of life.
  - For Summer has o'er brimm'd their clammy cells.
  - Though much is taken, much abides.
  - Failure is the pillar of success.
  - The wisest fool in Christendom.
  - To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.
  - The furrow followed free.
  - Fresh as a rose in June.
  - I will drink life to the lees.

5. Punctuate the following extract : 8

a luxury winter cruise in the mediterranean turned into a horrific scramble for survival for 4000 people as a giant 114500 tonne ocean liner costa concordia hit rocks off the coast of italy on friday evening survivors said it was like the titanic the drama began when the cruise ship hit some rocks which tore a 300 ft gash along the lower side of it the cruise ship was near the tiny tuscan island of giglio off the west coast of italy north of rome