

**West Bengal State University**

**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2012**

**PART - I**

**ENGLISH — GENERAL**

**PAPER -I**

Duration : 3 Hours ]

[ Full 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.*

*Answers must be brief and to the point.*

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 3 × 16 = 48
  - a) Analyse Shakespeare's use of images in 'Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day'.
  - b) Narrate the Parable of Talents. Why does Milton allude to the parable in 'On His Blindness' ?
  - c) How does Nature educate Lucy in 'The Education of Nature' ?
  - d) How does Shelley describe the nature and music of the Skylark in 'To a Skylark' ?
  - e) How does Ulysses argue in favour of a life of adventure in the poem 'Ulysses' ?
  - f) How does the lover console himself in his moment of failure in Browning's 'The Last Ride Together' ?
  - g) "I have looked upon those brilliant creatures  
And now my heart is sore."  
How does the poet describe the 'brilliant creatures' ? Why is the poet's heart 'sore' ?
  - h) Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem 'Look Stranger'.

2. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12

- a) What is meant by the phrase '... darling buds of May' ?
- b) "To serve therewith my Maker" — who is referred to as 'Maker' here ? How does the speaker wish to serve the 'Maker' ?
- c) "O mercy ! to myself I cried" — what made the poet cry to himself and why ?
- d) Who is the 'close bosom friend of the maturing sun' ? What is meant by 'maturing sun' ?
- e) What is referred to as 'rainy Hyades' in 'Ulysses' ? Why is it called 'rainy' ?
- f) What does Browning mean by "The petty done, the undone vast" in 'The Last Ride Together' ?
- g) "... paddle in the cold / companionable streams ..." What is meant by 'paddle' ? Why are the streams described as 'companionable' ?
- h) What is referred to as 'cold star' in Futility ? Why ?
- i) Which island does Auden refer to in the poem 'Look Stranger' ?
- j) "... where shades of darkness / Shall no more assail my eyes,"

Explain the phrase 'shades of darkness'. What is suggested in the word 'assail' ?

3. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title : 16 + 4

My fast was not free from a grave defect. I enjoyed very close and cordial relations with the mill-owners, and my fast could not but affect their decision. As a Satyagrahi I knew that I might not fast against them, but ought to leave them free to be influenced by the mill-hand's strike alone. My fast was undertaken not on account of a lapse of the mill-owners, but on account of that of the labourers in which, as their representative, I felt I had a share. With the mill-owners, I could only plead; to fast against them would amount to coercion. Yet in spite of my knowledge that my fast was bound to put pressure upon them, as in fact it did, I felt I could not help it. The duty to undertake it seemed to me to be clear. I tried to set the mill-owners at ease

'There is not the slightest necessity for you to withdraw from your position,' I said to them. But they received my words coldly and even flung keen, delicate bits of sarcasm at me, as indeed they had a perfect right to do.

4. Identify and explain the Figures of Speech in any *four* of the following :  $4 \times 3 = 12$
- Her skin was white as leprosy.
  - A Daniel has come to judgement.
  - An anxious morning slowly dawned.
  - Beauty is truth, truth beauty.
  - The pen is mightier than the sword.
  - Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.
  - To err is human, forgive divine.
  - Hail to thee, blithe spirit.
  - To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.
  - When husband's die, or lapdogs breathe their last.

5. Punctuate the following extract : 8

well as I remember it said jack the gist of the plan is this that christmas is christ's birthday and we should make our gifts to him instead of to one another and the idea of the white gift was suggested by the story of the persian king named kubla khan who was a wise and good ruler and greatly beloved on his subjects kept what they called the white feast.

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