

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B. Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2013

PART - I
ENGLISH — GENERAL
PAPER - I

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.

Answer must be brief and to the point.

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions : 3 × 16 = 48
- a) What is a sonnet ? Critically evaluate either Shakespeare's 'Shall I Compare Thee to a summer's day' or Milton's 'On His Blindness' as a perfect specimen of the sonnet and comment on the theme of the poem.
 - b) Describe the poet's journey to Lucy's cottage as given in 'Strange Fits of Passion'.
 - c) Comment on the images used by Shelley to describe the skylark.
 - d) Describe the various sights and sounds of autumn as depicted by Keats in the poem 'Ode to Autumn'.
 - e) How is the father distinguished from the son in Tennyson's poem "Ulysses" ?
 - f) Discuss Browning's philosophy of love as expressed in the poem "The Last Ride Together".
 - g) "Their hearts have not grown old" — Bring out the implicit contrast between the poet and the swans.
 - h) Examine "Futility" as an anti-war poem.

2. Answer any six of the following questions :

6 × 2 = 12

- a) How will the poet in 'Shall I Compare Thee' make his friend's beauty eternal ?
- b) "They also serve who stand and wait." Explain.
- c) Suggest two ways in which nature proposes to be both 'law and impulse' to Lucy.
- d) " I will drink life to the lees" — Bring out the significance of the comparison.
- e) Which human figures does Keats associate with Autumn ?
- f) What is meant by the line "In profuse strains of unpremeditated art" ?
- g) What is the occasion for the last ride together in Browning's poem ?
- h) How does Auden describe the ships in his poem ?
- i) "Was it for this the clay grew tall" — Explain the meanings of 'clay' and "tall".
- j) "But now they drift on the still water, / Mysterious, beautiful" — Who are described as "mysterious, beautiful" and why ?

3. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title.

16 + 4 = 20

It is early August and the day is hot and sultry. It rained during the night, but now the sun is out and the sweat oozes through my shirt as I sit in the back of a stuffy little taxi taking me through the suburbs of greater New Delhi. On either side of the road are the houses of well-to-do Punjabis, who came to Delhi as refugees in 1947 and now make up more than half the capital's population. Industrious, flashy, go-ahead people. Thirty years ago, fields extended on either side of this road, as far as the eye could see. The Ridge, an outcrop of the Aravallis, was scrub jungle, in which the black buck roamed. Feroz Shah's 14th century hunting lodge stood here in splendid isolation. It is still here, hidden by petrol pumps and lost within the sounds of buses, cars, trucks and scooter-rickshaws. The peacock has fled the forest, the black buck is extinct. Only the jackal remains. When, a thousand years from now, the last human has left this contaminated planet for some other star, the jackal and the crow will remain, to survive for years on all the refuse we leave behind.

4. Identify and explain the figures of speech in any *four* of the following : 4 × 3 = 12

- a) He is the pillar of the state.
- b) Death lays his icy hands on kings.
- c) Sweet are the uses of adversity.
- d) Man proposes, God disposes.
- e) Crown and sceptre must tumble down.
- f) I came, I saw, I conquered.
- g) Fresh as a rose in June.
- h) Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.
- i) Nor cast a longing lingering look behind.
- j) Failure is the pillar of success.

5. Punctuate the following extract :

the door swung open at once a tall black haired witch in emerald green robes stood there she had a very stern face and harrys first thought was that this was not someone to cross the firs years professor mcgonagall said hagrid thank you hagrid i will take them from here

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1.

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2.

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