



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. General PART-I Examinations, 2016

ENGLISH-GENERAL

PAPER-ENGG-I

NEW AND OLD SYLLABUS

Time Allotted: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 100

The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

New Syllabus

Group-A

1. Answer any *four* questions within 500 words each: 15×4 = 60
- Discuss Wordsworth's presentation of the relation between man and nature with close reference to the poem, 'Education of Nature'.
 - Attempt a critical appreciation of Shelley's poem. 'Ode to the West Wind'.
 - What is an ode? Make an estimate of Keat's 'Ode to a Nightingale' as an ode.
 - Discuss Tennyson's presentation of the character of Ulysses in his poem, 'Ulysses'.
 - Describe the characters of Porphyria and her lover in Browning's poem, 'Porphyria's Lover'.

- (f) Discuss the central idea of Hardy's poem, 'In Time of the Breaking of Nations' with relation to the three images of country life.
- (g) Give the substance of the poem 'Dover Beach' by Mathew Arnold.
- (h) In what way does Owen portray death in 'Strange Meeting'?
- (i) Discuss the powerful thoughts and feelings expressed by Yeats in 'The Lake Isle of Innisfree'.
- (j) Discuss the aptness of the title of Auden's poem, 'Musee des Beaux Arts'.

2. Answer any *three* questions within 200 words each:

5×3 = 15

(a) Locate the source of the following line and explain it:

We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!

(b) Fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget.

What thou among the leaves hast never known.

– Explain with reference to the context.

(c) O thou.

Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed

The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low.

–Who is 'thou'? Explain 'wintry bed'.

(d) Locate the source of the following line and explain the thought:

War's annals will fade into night

Ere their story die.

(e) I am the enemy you killed, my friend,

I knew you in this dark;

– Locate the lines and explain the apparent contradiction in the meaning.

(f) 'In Breughel Icarus, for instance:'

– Who is Breughel? Explain the reference to Icarus.

Group-B

3. Identify the figures of speech in any *five* from the following: 2×5 = 10

- (a) The whole sky burned with fury.
- (b) Life is a tale/ Told by an idiot.
- (c) How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.
- (d) But Patience to prevent/ That murmur, soon replies.....
- (e) Pride goes forth on horseback, grand and gay.
- (f) Death! Where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?
- (g) His honour rooted in dishonor stood.
- (h) Many are called, but few are chosen.
- (i) You have travelled a weary way.
- (j) What prodigal portion have I spent that I should come to such penury?

4. (a) Write a letter to the Officer-in-charge of your local police station complaining of the deteriorating law and order situation in your locality. 15

OR

(b) Write a letter to the Librarian of your college informing him of the loss of a book which you had borrowed. 15

Old Syllabus

1. Answer any *three* questions from the following: 16×3 = 48
- (a) How does the poet propose to eternalize the beauty of his friend in the sonnet, 'Shall I compare Thee to a Summer's Day'?
 - (b) How does Milton relate his poem, 'On His Blindness' to the Parable of Talents?
 - (c) Discuss Wordsworth's presentation of Nature in 'Three Years She Grew'.
 - (d) In what ways does Shelley establish the superiority of the Skylark's song in 'To A Skylark'?
 - (e) Discuss Browning's 'The Last Ride Together' as a dramatic monologue.
 - (f) Comment on Keats's power of description as you find in his ode, 'To Autumn'.
 - (g) How does Tennyson make a contrast between Ulysses and his son Telemachus in his poem, 'Ulysses'?
 - (h) Attempt a critical estimate of Yeats's poem, 'The Wild Swans at Coole'.
2. Answer any *six* questions from the following: 2×6 = 12
- (a) Locate and annotate: 'To serve therewith my Maker'.
 - (b) 'The floating clouds their state shall lend/ To her;'
-Who is the girl being referred to? What is meant by 'the floating clouds their state shall lend'?
 - (c) 'Where are the songs of Spring? Aye where are they?'- What does the poet mean by 'the songs of spring'?
 - (d) 'To follow knowledge like a sinking star'- What does Ulysses mean by the above line?
 - (e) What prompts the last ride together in Browning's poem, 'The Last Ride Together'?

- (f) 'The kind old sun will know'– Why is the sun called 'kind' and 'old'?
- (g) 'And now my heart is sore'– Why does the poet feel so?
- (h) What is the stranger asked to look at in 'Look, Stranger'?
- (i) Identify any one image in Shelley's 'To a Skylark' and explain.
- (j) What does Owen mean by the term 'futility'?

3. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title: 16+4 = 20

All distinguished men have been given to the habit of constant reading; and it is utterly impossible to arrive in any degree of distinction without this habit. 'Reading', says Bacon, 'makes a full man; conversation a ready man; writing an exact man'. That which he means by 'full' can never be attained except by an extensive and thorough acquaintance with books. No genius, no power of inventing and creating thoughts, can ever supply a deficiency in this respect. In order to have a judgement sound and correct, you must travel through the history of other times, and be able to compare the present with the past. To have the mind vigorous, you must refresh and strengthen it by a continued contact with the mighty dead who have gone away, but left their imperishable thoughts behind them. We want to have the mind continually expanding, and creating new thoughts, or at least feeding itself upon thoughts. What food is to the blood, which circulates through your veins, reading is to the mind?

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

- (a) So let them sink as water in the sand.
- (b) Variety is the spice of life.

- (c) Beauty is truth, truth Beauty.
- (d) The falling year brings sad thoughts to mind.
- (e) I came, I saw, I conquered.
- (f) Fresh as a rose in June.
- (g) Failure is the pillar of success.
- (h) Many are called but few are chosen.
- (i) Sweet are the uses of adversity.
- (j) Death lays his icy hand on Kings.

5. Punctuate the following extract:

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The orator cicero has rightly said that friendship increases happiness and reduces grief a friendless man must be unable to enjoy the pleasures of life even if he is rich and talented.