



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Honours PART-III Examinations, 2018

ENGLISH-HONOURS

PAPER-ENGA-VIII

NEW AND OLD SYLLABUS



Time Allotted: 4 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.*

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-I (Indian Writing in English) and Option-II (American Literature).

The candidates should clearly mention the correct option on their respective answer scripts
Indian Writing in English OR American Literature.

NEW SYLLABUS

1. Answer any **four** questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- (a) Write a note on 'hybridity' in the context of post-colonialism.
 - (b) What does ideology mean in the context of Marxist criticism?
 - (c) Distinguish between 'Signifier' and 'Signified'.
 - (d) What is the relationship between Base and Superstructure?
 - (e) What is 'Gynocriticism'?
 - (f) What are the synchronic and the diachronic approaches to language?

**Option-I
(Indian Writing in English)**

Group-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss how Sarojini Naidu's poem 'Caprice' explores the theme of abandonment and desertion.
 - (b) Critically analyse Jayanta Mahapatra's handling of pathos in the poem 'Hunger'.
 - (c) "Kamala Das's poem 'In love' is a study of the dehumanization of the decoupling of love and lust". Discuss.
 - (d) Analyse Ezekiel's poem "Enterprise" as an allegorical poem.

Group-B

3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- Analyse why the marriage between Ramaswamy and Madeline fall apart in Raja Rao's novel "The Serpent and the Rope".
 - How does Raja Rao treat the interrelationship of the orient and the occident in "The Serpent and the Rope"?
 - Can 'The Shadow Lines' be called a partition novel? Justify your answer with reference to the text.
 - Comment on the role of the women characters in 'The Shadow Lines'.

Group-C

4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- Assess 'The Lost Child' as a typical Indian short story in English.
 - Consider 'The Accompanist' by Anita Desai as an allegory and give reasons in support of your answer.
 - Comment on the intricacies of the relationship in Chekov and Zulu by Salman Rushdie.
 - Comment on the appropriateness of title 'A House and Two Goats'.

Group-D

5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- Illustrate the agony of a girl child in a typical middle class Indian family as depicted in Dattani's *Tara*.
 - Analyse the relationship between the siblings Tara and Chandan in Dattani's *Tara*.
 - Analyse Currimbhoy's *The Refugee* as a play that dramatises the loss and suffering associated with the refugee crisis in 1971.
 - Critically analyse the character of Yassin in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.

Group-E

6. Locate and annotate any **one** from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- We noticed nothing as we went,
A straggling crowd of little hope,
Ignoring what the thunder meant,
Deprived of common needs like soap.
 - For Terror is Thy name,
Death is in my breath,
And every shaking step
Destroys a world for ever.
 - And Flora gave the lotus, "rose-red dyed"
"And lily-white", – the queenliest flower that blows.
 - The mighty perish in their might,
The slain survive the slayer.

7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: $5 \times 1 = 5$
- Comment briefly on the character of the 'Little Mother' in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - Discuss briefly the theme of marriage as reflected in "The Serpent and the Rope".
 - Comment on the representation of love in "The Shadow Lines".
 - Explain with reference to the context: "And yet, when I look at her (the grandmother), lying crumpled in front of me, her white thinning hair matted with her invalid's sweat, my heart fills with love for her..."
8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: $5 \times 1 = 5$
- What according to you happened to the child at the end in Mulk Raj Anand's 'The Lost Child'?
 - What is the business transaction that takes place between Muni and the American Businessman in 'A Horse and Two Goats'?
 - Explain with reference to the context: "Play for me".
 - Comment on the significance of the nicknames Chekov and Zulu.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: $5 \times 1 = 5$
- Explain with reference to the context: "Forgive me, Tara, Forgive me for making it my tragedy".
 - Briefly comment on the role of Dr. Thakkar in Tara.
 - Explain with reference to the context: "You're welcome. As friends and neighbours, you're welcome".
 - Briefly analyse the role of Mita in Asif Currimbhoy's 'The Refugee'.

Option-II
(American Literature)
Group-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: $15 \times 1 = 15$
- Discuss Walt Whitman's treatment of nature in "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry".
 - Analyse the poem 'somewhere i have never travelled' by E. E. Cummings, focusing on the metaphors used throughout.
 - How does Langston Hughes use the image of river in "A Negro Speaks of Rivers"?
 - Attempt a critical appreciation of Plath's poem "Mirror".
3. Explain and annotate any **one** from the following: $5 \times 1 = 5$
- We slowly drove— He knew no haste
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For his civility.

- (b) Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
- (c) I have in me so much nearer home
To scare myself with my own desert places.

Group-B

4. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Critically analyse the appropriateness of the title *The Great Gatsby*.
- (b) The Great Gatsby is a novel representing the "American Dream". Elucidate.
- (c) How does Alice Walker portray human relationship in *The Color Purple*?
- (d) Consider the aptness of the title *The Color Purple*.
5. Answer briefly any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) What rumours have been told about Gatsby? Why does F. Scott Fitzgerald use rumours rather than facts?
- (b) Compare and contrast Wilson and Gatsby. Who is Nick more sympathetic to?
- (c) How would you describe the relationship between Mr. _____ and his father, and the relationship between Harpo and Mr. _____?
- (d) Narrate the circumstances that lead Celie to start her own business.

Group-C

6. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) How does Hawthorne show in his story "The Ambitious Guest", the futility of human aspiration in the face of elemental forces of nature?
- (b) Write a brief note on the character of Montessor in "The Cask of Amontillado."
- (c) Comment on O'Henry's use of irony in "The Cactus".
- (d) Show how Odiles children bring about a metamorphosis in Mamzelle Aurélie's character.
7. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) "For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In *pace requiescat!*" Locate and annotate.
- (b) Describe after O'Henry, the consequence of the following: " 'I will send you my answer tomorrow', she said."
- (c) "She cried like a man, with sobs that seemed to tear her very soul." Locate and explain.

Group-D

8. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words. 15×1 = 15
- (a) How has Arthur Millen portrayed the character of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*?

(b) How does *Death of a Salesman* reflect the crisis in American society? Elucidate.

9. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5

(a) Willy and Biff have different explanations for Biff's failure to succeed in the business world. What are they and how are these explanations different?

(b) Explain "Nothing is planted. I don't have a thing in the ground."

OLD SYLLABUS

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-I (Indian Writing in English) and Option-II (American Literature).

The candidates should clearly mention the correct option on their respective answer scripts
Indian Writing in English OR American Literature.

1. Answer any **four** questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- How would you distinguish post-modernism from modernism?
 - Explain with suitable examples the terms 'centre' and 'margin'.
 - Define the terms 'signifier' and 'signified'.
 - What are the synchronic and the diachronic approaches to language?
 - What is the relationship between Base and Superstructure?
 - What is Gynocriticism?

Option-I

(Indian Writing in English)

2. Answer any **one** question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- 'The English Teacher' as a critique of Western Education. Discuss.
OR
Comment on Krishna's married life as depicted in 'The English Teacher'.
 - Comment on the interplay, of tradition and modernity in 'Kanthapura'.
OR
Discuss the uniqueness of the narrative technique in 'Kanthapura'.
 - What are the major themes in 'The Inheritance of Loss' by Kiran Desai?
Discuss with close reference to the text.
OR
Comment on the appropriateness of the title 'The Inheritance of Loss' by Kiran Desai.
 - Discuss the woman characters in Sunetra Gupta's 'Memories of Rain'.
OR
Comment on the setting of 'Memories of Rain' by Sunetra Gupta.

3. Answer briefly any **two** questions from any one group of your choice: 5×2 = 10

Group-I

- Describe Krishna's relationship with his daughter.
- Discuss the reasons for Krishna's bent towards the supernatural.
- Comment on the shift in Krishna's perspective of education in the course of the novel.

Group-II

- (d) Comment on any one incident which brings forth Raja Rao's attitude to religion in 'Kanthapura'.
- (e) Discuss any one incident which reveals Raja Rao's attitude to caste and clans in 'Kanthapura'.
- (f) How does Raja Rao show the emergence of woman from the domestic sphere to the public domain in 'Kanthapura'?

Group-III

- (g) Briefly discuss the female bonding as depicted in 'The Inheritance of Loss' by Kiran Desai.
- (h) Write a note on the issue of illegal migration in 'The Inheritance of Loss' by Kiran Desai.
- (i) Discuss the role of any one minor character in 'The Inheritance of Loss'.

Group-IV

- (j) How does native India serve as a memory in 'Memories of Rain'?
- (k) Comment on the role of any one minor character in 'Memories of Rain'.
- (l) How does rain act as a recurring motif in 'Memories of Rain'.

4. Answer any *one* question from the following: 10×1 = 10

- (a) Analyse the mental state of the terrorist before he shoots the politician. Discuss Ananda's attitude towards terrorism.
- (b) Do you think the submission of the disciple is equivalent to servitude in 'The Accompanist'? Discuss and comment.
- (c) Do you think the central character in 'Glory at Twilight' represents the benevolence of the patriarchal society in Bengal?
- (d) Justify the title in 'My Beloved Charioteer'.
- (e) How does 'The Journey' depict the life in the hills in close affinity with nature?
- (f) Does nature serve as a symbol for Bond's childhood which he revisits in 'My Father's Trees in Dehra'?

5. Answer any *two* questions from the following: 5×2 = 10

- (a) What are the doubts that plagued 'The Accompanist'?
- (b) Why did the English ministers sneer at the desi politicians representing the Parliament?
- (c) What we gather about the mother-daughter relationship in 'My Beloved Charioteer'?
- (d) What aspect of Satyajit's career is revealed in the incident which marked his meteoric rise?
- (e) Who made 'the journey' and why?
- (f) What did he see when he visited his grandfather's bungalow in Dehra?

6. Answer any *one* question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- Analyse the symbolic significance of the title 'The Hunger' by Jayanta Mahapatra.
 - Sri Aurobindo's poem 'The Tiger and the Deer' is "a contrast between good and evil innocence and experience, life and death" – Discuss.
 - 'The Old Playhouse' by Kamala Das is a poem of protest against patriarchy – Discuss.
7. Comment, with reference to the context, any *two* from the following: 5×2 = 10
- But the greatest beast crouched and crept, and crept and crouched a last time, noiseless, fatal.
 - It was not to gather knowledge of yet another man....
 - Hope lay perhaps in burning the house I lived in.
 - My poor lust with bitter-sweet juices.
 - You look right at the sky. Clear through the bullet holes she has for eyes.
8. Answer any *one* question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- Comment on the character of Ba both as a victim and perpetrator of patriarchy.
- OR
- Comment on the appropriateness of the title 'Bravely Fought the Queen' by Dattani.
- Comment on Dattani's *Tara* from the perspective of gender equality in the Indian setting.
- OR
- Discuss the projection of the male characters in Dattani's *Tara*.
9. Answer any *two* questions from the following: 5×2 = 10
- Comment on the character of the father in *Tara*.
- OR
- What is the significance of Naina Devi's ghazals in the backdrop of the play *Bravely Fought the Queen*?
- Comment on the symbol of the bonsai in *Bravely Fought the Queen*.
- OR
- Explain with reference to the context: "Two lives and one body, in one comfortable womb. Till we were forced out".
- What impression do we get of the relationship between Sridhar and Lalitha in *Bravely Fought the Queen*?
- OR
- Comment on the title of *Tara*.

Option-II

(American Literature)

2. Answer any **one** question from the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$

- (a) (i) Discuss *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a critique of society.
- (ii) Would you consider *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a picaresque novel? Discuss.
- (b) (i) Comment on Fitzgerald's use of symbols in *The Great Gatsby*.
- (ii) Analyse the role of Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*.
- (c) (i) Comment on the appropriateness of the title *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- (ii) Describe briefly the social and historical background of *The Grapes of Wrath* and comment on Steinbeck's portrayal of contemporary society.
- (d) (i) Comment on Harper Lee's art of characterization in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- (ii) How does Harper Lee in *To Kill a Mockingbird* explore the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s?
- (e) (i) How has Alice Walker portrayed the women characters in the novel *The Color Purple*?
- (ii) How does the death of Celie's mother change Celie's relationship with her family, with herself, and with God in *The Color Purple*?

3. Answer briefly any **two** questions from the following from **any one** group of your choice: $5 \times 2 = 10$

Group-I

- (a) What impression does Huck have of the House of the Grangerford in Mark Twain's novel?
- (b) Why did Tom Sawyer suppress his knowledge of Jim's freedom to the last?
- (c) How were the Duke and King caught and what happened to them in the end?

Group-II

- (d) Describe the "Valley of ashes". What does it look like and what does it represent?
- (e) What was the end of Myrtle Wilson and what were its consequences?
- (f) Gatsby believed in the "green light". Explain the symbolic significance of the green light in *The Great Gatsby*.

Group-III

- (g) Can Noah be called a "lotos-eater"?
- (h) Why do the wealthy landowners feel threatened by the government camp and what do they do about it in *The Grapes of Wrath*?
- (i) Provide and explain at least two instances from *The Grapes of Wrath* when the characters realize the enormity of systemic violence.

Group-IV

- (j) Describe Boo Radley's house in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
 (k) Atticus Finch's parenting style is unique. Do you agree?
 (l) What role does Aunt Alexandra play in *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

Group-V

- (m) What is the role of Tashi in *The color Purple*?
 (n) "Dear God, Dear Stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything. Dear God." Explain with reference to the context.
 (o) How does the community react to Shug's illness in *The Color Purple*?
4. Answer any **one** question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Comment on the role of fate in Hawthorne's "The Ambitious Guest".
 (b) Critically examine the plot and narrative structure of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado".
 (c) Examine the narrative technique used in "Cactus".
 (d) Comment on the theme of motherhood as depicted in "Regret".
 (e) How does W.W. Jacob generate suspense, mystery and horror? Discuss with reference to "The Monkey's Paw".
 (f) Analyse "On the Gull's Road" as a story of love.
5. Answer any **two** questions from the following: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Give three examples of dramatic irony in "The Cask of Amontillado".
 (b) Why does the narrator in "The Cactus" pretend to know Spanish?
 (c) "But I cannot die till I have achieved my destiny".
 (d) What was the friend warning about the monkey's paw? How did this warning come true?
 (e) "She cried like a man, with sobs that seemed to tear her very soul." Explain with reference to the context.
 (f) What is the significance of the things that the painter finds in the box in the story "On the Gull's Road"?
6. Answer any **one** question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Write a brief note on the imagery used by Robert Frost in "Desert Places".
 (b) Comment on the title of Gwendolyn Brook's "A Sunset of the City".
 (c) Critically analyse Allen Ginsberg's "A Supermarket in California" or Langston Hughes' "The Negro speaks of the Rivers".

7. Explain and annotate any **two** from the following: 5×2 = 10

- (a) Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face!
Clouds of the west— sun there half an hour high— I see you also face
to face.
- (b) Since then 'tis centuries; but each
Feels shorter than the day
I first surmised the horses' heads
Were toward eternity.
- (c) They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
Between stars on stars where no human race is.
- (d) (i do not know what it is about you that closes
and opens; only something in me understands
the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses)
- (e) Every woman adores a Fascist,
The boot in the face, the brute
Brute heart of a brute like you.

8. Answer any **one** question from the following: 10×1 = 10

- (a) (i) Analyse Tennessee Williams' use of symbols in '*The Glass Menagerie*'.

OR

- (ii) Comment on the characterization of women in *The Glass Menagerie*.

- (b) (i) Critically discuss the significance of the title of the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

OR

- (ii) "Albee's work is characterized by an overwhelming sense of loss" – Do you agree? Justify your answer with a close reference to '*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*'.

9. Answer any **two** questions from the following: 5×2 = 10

- (a) (i) What is the significance of Laura's unicorn? Why does she give it to Jim?

OR

- (ii) Why is the second Act of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* called 'Walpurgisnacht'?

(b) (i) Why does Amanda blame Tom for the failure of the evening?

OR

(ii) Explain the significance of the cocktail party as the setting of the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

(c) (i) Why does Laura stop going to Rubicon Business School? Why does she conceal this fact from her mother?

OR

Why does George criticize the discipline of Biology?

Answer any one question from the following

(i) Analyse Tennessee Williams' use of symbols in *The Glass Menagerie*.

OR

(ii) Comment on the characterization of women in *The Glass Menagerie*.

(i) Critically discuss the significance of the title of the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

(ii) "Albee's work is characterized by an overwhelming sense of loss." Discuss.

(iii) You agree/disagree your answer with a close reference to *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Answer any two questions from the following:

(i) What is the significance of Laurie's epiphany? Why does she give it to her father?

OR

(ii) Why is the second Act of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* called 'Walpurgisnacht'?