

2021

ENGLISH

PAPER-II

Time Allowed — 3 Hours

Full Marks — 200

If the questions attempted are in excess of the prescribed number, only the questions attempted first up to the prescribed number shall be valued and the remaining ones ignored.

1. Critically evaluate the following Poem:

50

And it grows, the vain
Summer,
even for us with our
bright green sins:

behold the dry
wind,
as it stirs up quarrels
among magnolia boughs

and plays its serene
tune on
the prows of all the leaves-
and then is gone,

leaving the leaves
still there,
the tree still green, but breaking
the heart of the air.

2. Answer *any one* of the following:

50

- (a) Explain how Yeats explores his thoughts and musings on immortality, art and life in “Sailing to Byzantium”. Justify your answer with close textual references.
- (b) Do you think that Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” is a modernist poem? Justify your answer with references from the text.
- (c) How would you explain Kamala Das’s “An Introduction” as a feminist poem? Answer with proper textual references.
- (d) How would you justify Auden’s contention that “once an artist creates his art, the art develops its own autonomy and life and is not limited by the artist or his intentions”? Answer with references to his Poem “In Memory of W.B. Yeats”.

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Please Turn Over

3. Answer *any one* of the following:

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- (a) How is the theme of change represented in Yeats's "Easter 1916"? What is the "Terrible beauty" referred to here? Answer with close textual references.
- (b) How is the notion of the angry young man skillfully depicted in Osborne's portrayal of the protagonist in the play *Look Back in Anger*?
- (c) In what ways is the play *Waiting for Godot* relevant in our time? In what sense is the word 'waiting' significant? Justify your answer.
- (d) Do you think that Sylvia Plath in "Nick and the Candlestick" has successfully depicted the creation of life and the masterful merging of metaphor and reality? Give a reasoned answer with references from the text.

4. Answer *any one* of the following:

50

- (a) Show how the problem of untouchability, poverty, sexual exploitation and caste-society is depicted skillfully in the context of the novel *Kanthapura*. Answer critically.
- (b) Show how Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Shadow Lines* deals with the issues of partition, identity, freedom and cross-cultural interactions in the backdrop of communal violence. Give a detailed answer.
- (c) The conflict in Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* centres on the cultural clashes that emerge as traditional Igbo society is slowly transformed by the colonizing British administrators and missionaries. How would you justify the theme of the text? Give a reasoned answer.
- (d) In what ways is Virginia Woolf's *A Room Of One's Own* a feminist critical Text focusing on the theme of freedom and confinement of women in a patriarchal society? Answer critically.

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