

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. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following poem:

50

Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee: she is a fen
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,
Have forfeited their ancient English dower
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men;
Oh! raise us up, return to us again;
And give us manners, virtue, freedom, power.
Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart:
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea:
Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free,
So didst thou travel on life's common way,
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart
The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

2. Answer *any one* question from the following:

50

- (a) Would you consider W. B. Yeats's 'Leda and the Swan' to be a disguised narrative for the progress of Western Civilization? Critically analyze the poem to justify your stand.
- (b) Compare and contrast the poems 'Journey of the Magi' and 'Burnt Norton' by T. S. Eliot as meditations on time and religious devotion.
- (c) Discuss the literary elements used by Sylvia Plath in the poem 'Mirror'.
- (d) In the poem 'Introduction' Kamala Das is able to "successfully marshal diverse and tangential themes in one controlled poem" (Daruwalla). Comment with close textual references.

3. Answer *any one* question from the following: 50

- (a) "The impact Osborne had on British theatre is incalculable. With *Look Back in Anger* he brought class as an issue before British audiences." Critically examine this view with close reference to the play.
- (b) Would you agree with the view that Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* is primarily about hope? Argue with close textual references.
- (c) According to Joyce's celebrated biographer, Richard Ellman, Joyce hoped that his *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young man* would be an autobiographical novel, "turning his life into fiction." Discuss the statement with textual references.
- (d) Comment on how Virginia Woolf's '*A Room of One's Own*' illustrates the history of women's literary writing in patriarchal society.

4. Answer *any one* question from the following: 50

- (a) Bring out the complexity of Ghosh's narrative technique in his novel *The Shadow Lines*.
- (b) Do you consider Okonkwo as the tragic protagonist of Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*? Discuss with suitable examples from the text.
- (c) How did Tagore conceptualize 'civilization' in his speech '*Crisis in Civilization*'? Substantiate, following the writer's argument, why human civilization was deeply threatened.
- (d) Can Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* be regarded as a postcolonial novel? Justify your argument with reference to the novel.

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