

2007

ENGLISH

FOURTH PAPER

Full Marks: 80

Time: 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

(New Syllabus)

(Non-Fictional Prose)

1. Answer any *five* questions from the following: 12×5=60
- a) How important are Keats' letters for an understanding of his poetry? From Keats' letters prescribed" in your syllabus, discuss some of the philosophical and critical concepts which inform his verse.
 - b) Critically assess Arnold's views on poetry as discussed in his *Preface to Poems* (1853).
 - c) Would you consider Addison's *The Spectator* essays to be representative of neo-classical prose writing? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples from the essays that you have read.
 - d) Would you subscribe to the view that Lamb's essays suggest an indifference to philosophy? Justify your stance from your reading of *My Relations*.
 - e) Consider Virginia Woolf's essay *How it strikes a contemporary* as a modernist text in terms of theme, structure and style.
 - f) Discuss Tagore's idea of Nation as expressed in his essay *Nationalism in the West*
 - g) Explore the neo-classical principles that shape Johnson's assessment of Milton in *Life of Milton*.
 - h) How do the Victorian and Modern perspectives get articulated in Chapter I and Chapter II of Russell's *Autobiography*?
2. Critically explain any *three* of the following with reference to the context: 4×3=12
- a) "It is from the notebooks of the present that the masterpieces of the future are made."
 - b) "I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the Heart's affections and the truth of the Imagination-what the imagination seizes as Beauty must be truth-"
 - c) "But in retrospect, as I have grown older, I have realised more and more the importance she had in moulding my outlook on life."
 - d) "They regarded the whole; we regard the parts. With them, the action predominated over the expression of it; with us, the expression predominates over the action!"
 - e) "I hate people who meet Time half way. I am for no compromise with that inevitable spoiler."
3. Write short notes on any *two* of the following: 4×2=8
- (a) Essay and letters as literary forms
 - (b) Russell's remembrances of his parents in Chapter I of his *Autobiography*
 - (c) *Autobiography and Biography*
 - (d) Lamb's portrayal of his aunt in *My Relations*

(Old Syllabus)
(Non-Fictional Prose and Biography)
Write the answers to the two Halves in separate books

FIRST HALF

4. Answer any *four* of the following (in approximately 500 words each): $10 \times 4 = 40$
- a) Comment on Bacon's style, assessing how it reflects the enlightened thought of the day.
 - b) Comment on the significance of the story of Noah's Ark in the *Genesis*.
 - c) How well do Addison's essays capture the ethos of his contemporary society? Give a well-reasoned answer.
 - d) Comment on the literary merit of any two of the biographies of poets by Dr. Johnson in the *Lives*
 - e) How well do you think that the expression 'Life of the mind' applies to Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*? Give a well-balanced answer.

SECOND HALF

5. Answer any *two* of the following questions $14 \times 2 = 28$
- a) Characterize Charles Lamb as an essayist with special reference to the essays prescribed for you.
 - b) Give, after Hazlitt, a portrait of Coleridge. Do you think that his appraisal of the poet is just?
 - c) Evaluate Carlyle's estimate of Shakespeare.
 - d) "With all his telling irony, irreverent and malicious insight, and a keen eye for human weakness, Lytton Strachey offered a portrait of Queen Victoria which was in the main sympathetic"
Assess Strachey's portrait of Queen Victoria in the light 'of the above remark.
 - e) Comment on the theme and style of Orwell's *England, Your England*.
6. Explain any *two* of the following passages with reference to their contexts:

$6 \times 2 = 12$

- a) His youth was fiery, glowing, tempestuous-and in age he discovereth no symptom of cooling. This is that which I admire in him. I hate people who meet Time half way. I am for no compromise with that inevitable spoiler.
- b) Coleridge remarks very pertinently somewhere, that wherever you find a sentence musically worded, of true rhythm and melody in the words, there is something deep and good in the meaning too.
- c) His (Wordsworth's) genius was not a spirit that descended to him through the air; it sprung out of the ground like a flower; or unfolded itself from a green spray, on which the gold-finch sang.
- d) One of the most convincing aspects of the mystic illumination is the apparent revelation of the oneness of all things, giving rise to pantheism in religion and to monism in philosophy.