

West Bengal State University

B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2010



**PART-II ( General )**

**ENGLISH**

**Paper-II**

Duration : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 100

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

1. Answer any six of the following questions

6 × 2 = 12

- a) What happened to the mansion that great grandmother Field looked after ?
- b) Why does Benson call the essayist the opposite of the romancer ?
- c) "They stagger over hills like armed men." Who are they ? Why do gardeners hate them ?
- d) Why did Orwell find the young Buddhist priests in Burma irritating ?
- e) When did the boy in *Araby* reach the fair ? What did he buy from it ?
- f) Where did Mrs. Thurlow hide her money ? How much had she saved ?
- g) Why does the narrator compare the vast majority of people to tram cars ?
- h) "What would it make of that ? What indeed !" Who or what is being referred to here ? What did 'it' do ?

2. Answer any *one* of the following questions 16
- a) Show how Lamb mixes humour and pathos in his essay *Dream Children*.
  - b) Where did Orwell see the elephant and why did he decide not to shoot it ?  
What made him change his decision ?
  - c) What, according to Benson, are the pitfalls that a good essayist should avoid ?
  - d) Would you call Lynd's *Seaside* a reflective essay ? Justify your answer.
3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 16
- a) Who is the central protagonist in Mansfield's *The Fly* ? Support your views from your reading of the text.
  - b) What role does the narrator play in Maugham's short story *The Lotus Eater* ?
  - c) Analyse the character of Mrs. Thurlow and comment on the appropriateness of comparing her to a beast of burden.
  - d) Comment on the significance of the title *Araby* in Joyce's short story.
4. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 16
- a) Discuss the reasons behind the success of Donald Farfrae and the failure of Michael Henchard in Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
  - b) Does Hardy's use of chance and coincidence in *The Mayor of Casterbridge* shape his tragic vision ? Discuss with suitable textual references.
  - c) Critically comment on any *two* major social problems that Dickens discussed in *Oliver Twist*.
  - d) Write a note on the characterization of the minor figures in *Oliver Twist*.

5. Explain with reference to the context : 10 + 10 = 20

i) a) "We are not of Alice, nor of thee, nor are we children at all."

OR

b) "The essayist is, to a certain extent, bound to be a spectator of life."

OR

c) "I often wondered whether any of the others grasped that I had done it solely to avoid looking like a fool."

ii) a) "He took out his handkerchief and passed it inside his collar. For the life of him he could not remember."

OR

b) "Grasping its handles she felt a sense of security and fortitude."

OR

c) "Her image accompanied me even in places the most hostile to romance."

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below : 4 × 5 = 20

What is it that we mean by *literature* ? Popularly, and amongst the thoughtless, it is held to include everything that is printed in a book. Little logic is required to disturb that definition ; the most thoughtless person is easily made aware, that in the idea of *literature*, one essential element is some relation to a general and common interest of man — so that what applies only to a local, or professional, or merely personal interest, even though presenting itself in the shape of a book, will not belong to Literature. So far the definition is easily narrowed ; and it is as easily expanded. For not only is much that takes a station in books not literature ; but inversely, much that really *is* literature never reaches a station in books. The weekly sermons of Christendom, that vast pulpit literature which acts so extensively upon the popular mind — to warn, to uphold, to renew, to comfort, to alarm — does not attain the sanctuary of libraries in the ten-thousandth part of its extent. The Drama again, as,

for instance, the finest of Shakespeare's plays in England, and all leading Athenian plays in the noontide of the Attic stage, operated as a literature on the public mind and were ( according to the strictest letter of that term ) *published* through the audiences that witnessed their representation some time before they were published as things to be read...

Books, therefore, do not suggest an idea co-extensive and interchangeable with the idea of Literature ; since much literature, scenic, forensic, or didactic ( as from lecturers and public orators ), may never come into books, and much that *does* come into books may connect itself with no literary interest. But a far more important correction, applicable to the common vague idea of literature is to be sought ... in a sharper distinction of the two functions which it fulfils ... . There is, first, the literature of *knowledge* ; and, secondly, the literature of *power*. The function of the first is — to *teach* ; the function of the second is — to *move* : the first is a rudder ; the second an oar or a sail. The first speaks to the *mere* discursive understanding ; the second speaks ultimately ... to the higher understanding or reason, but always *through* affections of pleasure and sympathy.

- a) Suggest a suitable title to the passage, and justify your choice.
- b) How is literature popularly defined ? Why does the author find this definition inaccurate ?
- c) How does the author illustrate that "much that really *is* literature never reaches a station in books" ?
- d) How can literature be divided into two categories ? How are the two different ?

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**PART-II ( General )**

**ENGLISH**

**Paper-III**

Duration : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 100

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

**GROUP - A**

1. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12

- a) Why was Bassanio in need of money ?
- b) "Give me my principal and let me go." Who is the speaker and what was the principal ?
- c) What did Bassanio find inside the lead casket ?
- d) Why does Calphurnia try to prevent Caesar from going to the Capitol ?
- e) Where was Caesar killed and how many times was he stabbed ?
- f) What does the ghost of Caesar tell Brutus on the eve of the battle ?
- g) Who was the first to strike Caesar ? What was Caesar's reaction when Brutus struck him ?
- h) What does Gratiano mean by "a halter gratis" ? Whom does he want to give it to ?
- i) How does Sergius describe Bluntschli at the end of the play ?

- j) "You have the soul of a servant." Who says this and of whom ?
- k) Where did Raina go every year during the opera season ? Which opera does she refer to in Act I of the play ?
- l) "A fraud, Bluntschli. A hollow sham ; like love." Who is the speaker and who is he referring to ?

**GROUP - B**

2. Answer the following questions 2 × 16 = 32

- a) i) Give an estimate of Shylock's character in *The Merchant of Venice*. Do you think his punishment is justified ? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- ii) Comment on the significance of the Casket-scene in *The Merchant of Venice*.

OR

- iii) Critically comment on Act I of *Julius Caesar* as the exposition of the play.

OR

- iv) Examine the role of Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar*.

- b) i) Discuss the theme of war in *Arms and the Man* with suitable textual references.

OR

- ii) Justify whether Bluntschli has an 'incurably romantic disposition'.

3. Explain with reference to the context any *two* of the following : 2 × 8 = 16

- a) "But I am constant as the northern star."
- b) "This was the noblest Roman of them all."
- c) "The quality of mercy is not strained."
- d) "The Hebrew will turn Christian, he grows kind."
- e) "I am not here to be sold to the highest bidder."
- f) "The world is not such an innocent place as we used to think, Petkoff."

**GROUP - C**

4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 20
- a) Your favourite novelist or dramatist or poet.
  - b) The position of women in contemporary society.
  - c) The relevance of learning English in India.
  - d) The role of internet in modern times.
5. Write notes any *five* of the following : 5 × 4 = 20
- a) Ballad
  - b) Sonnet
  - c) Round and flat characters
  - d) Symbol
  - e) Dramatic monologue
  - f) Comedy
  - g) Elegy
  - h) Ode.