

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011
PART – I

ENGLISH — GENERAL
PAPER – I

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.

Answer must be brief and to the point.

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions 3 × 16 = 48
 - a) Why is the speaker reluctant to draw a comparison between the beloved and a day in summer ? Answer with close reference to the text.
 - b) “They also serve who only stand and wait” – Analyse ‘On His Blindness’ in the light of the above line.
 - c) Keats’s ‘Ode to Autumn’ recreates the sights and sounds of the season. Justify with reference to the text.
 - d) Examine the character of Ulysses as presented by Tennyson.
 - e) Is ‘The Last Ride Together’ a love poem ? Support your argument with textual illustrations.
 - f) Assess Wilfred Owen’s attitude to war with reference to ‘Futility’.
 - g) Can ‘Wild Swans at Coole’ be called a romantic poem ? Justify your answer.
 - h) Comment on the imagery in Shelley’s ‘To a Sylark’.

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
 - a) Whose summer is ‘eternal’ ? Why ?
 - b) “The memory of what has been” — explain the significance of the line.
 - c) What are the ships compared to in Auden’s poem ?
 - d) How many swans did Yeats count at Coole Park ?

- e) "Thou have paid thy utmost blessing." What does the poet mean by 'utmost blessing' ?
- f) What is the ominous dream that the poet has in 'Strange fits of passion' ?
- g) "With life forever old yet new" — where does this line occur ? Who is the speaker ?
- h) " ... that one talent which is death to hide." Point out the importance of the term 'talent'.
- i) Explain 'Summer's lease'.
- j) Where are 'the Happy Tales' ?

3. Make a precis of the following passage and add a suitable title : 16 + 4

Huckleberry Finn is not only a novel; it is also a direct descendant of an important subgenre : the Spanish picaresque tale that arose in the sixteenth century as a reaction against the chivalric romance. In the latter type, pure and noble knights customarily rescued virtuous and beautiful heroines from enchanted castles guarded by fire-breathing dragons or wicked knights. In an attempt to debunk the artificiality and insipidity of such tales, Spanish writers of the day (notably the anonymous author of *Lazarillo de Tormes*) introduced into fiction as a central figure a kind of antihero, the picaro — a rogue or rascal of low birth who lived by his wits and his cunning rather than by exalted chivalric ideals. In these stories we simply move with his new type of hero from one wild and sensational experience to another, involving many pranks and much trenchant satire. Later treatments of the picaro have occasionally minimized and frequently eliminated his roguish or rascally traits. Dickens's picaros, for example, as usually model poor boys.

4. Identify and explain the Figures of Speech in any *four* of the following : 4 × 3 = 12

- a) They also serve who only stand and wait.
- b) What hand and brain went ever paired ?
- c) The sounding cataract haunted me like a passion.

- d) The field of freedom, faction, fame and blood
- e) I came, I saw, I conquered.
- f) Cowards die many times before their deaths;
- g) Move him into the sun.
- h) United we stand; divided we fall.
- i) I lay all night on my sleepless pillow.
- j) And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds.

5. Punctuate the following extract :

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One day when she was two years old she was playing in a garden and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother I suppose she must have looked rather delightful for Mrs. Darling put her hand to her heart and cried Oh why can't you remain like this for ever This was all that passed between them on the subject but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up