



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. Honours PART-I Examinations, 2016

ENGLISH-HONOURS

PAPER-ENGA-I

NEW AND OLD SYLLABUS

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

NEW SYLLABUS

Group-A

1. Answer any *one* question within 500 words from the following: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Assess the significance of *Beowulf* in Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry.
 - (b) Write a critical note on the characteristic features of Old English elegiac poetry, with special reference to any two poems.
 - (c) Write an essay on the Alliterative Revival in Middle English literature.

2. Answer any *three* questions within 200 words each from the following: 5×3 = 15
 - (a) Assess the contribution of Ælfric to Anglo-Saxon prose.
 - (b) Comment on the theme and style of the poem "The Dream of the Rood."
 - (c) Why Alfred is called the Father of English Prose?
 - (d) Assess the contribution of Langland in Middle English literature.

- (e) How far does “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” succeed in giving us a picture of the courtly life of the Middle Ages?

Group-B

3. Answer any *one* question within 500 words from the following: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Assess Sidney as an Elizabethan sonneteer with reference to ‘Loving in Truth’.
 - (b) Comment critically on Shakespeare’s use of imagery with reference to the sonnets prescribed in your syllabus.
 - (c) Discuss the metaphysical features of Marvell’s ‘To His Coy Mistress’.
4. Answer any *one* question within 500 words from the following: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Critically analyse any one of the prescribed essays of Bacon to show how the author synthesizes practical wisdom and forcible expression.
 - (b) How does Burton examine the phenomenon of melancholy in the given extract of *Anatomy of Melancholy*?
 - (c) Write a note on the phenomenal growth of English prose during the Elizabethan period.
5. Answer any *two* questions within 200 words each from the following: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Explain with reference to the context: ‘Where when as death shall all the world subdue,/Our love shall live, and later life renew.’
 - (b) Explain with reference to the context: ‘There, above noise and danger,/ Sweet Peace sits crown’d with smiles’.
 - (c) Explain how Donne uses the religious concept of ‘canonization’ in a love poem.
 - (d) Write a brief note on the significance of King James’ Bible.

- (e) What does Zoroaster, Plato and Pliny have to say about man's excellence in 'Anatomy of Melancholy'?

Group-C

6. Answer any *two* questions within 450 words each from the following: 10×2 = 20
- (a) Write a brief note on French borrowings into English.
 - (b) Comment on the influence of Latin borrowings into English.
 - (c) Write short notes on the following:
 - (i) Derivation
 - (ii) Hybrids.
 - (d) Examine the Scandinavian influence on English grammar and syntax.
 - (e) Comment on the influence of loan words and loan translations of words of Indian origin into modern English.
7. Write philological notes on any *five* from the following: 2×5 = 10
batchmate, communal, tiffin-box, gospel, egg, brethren, kindergarten, gossip, cheap, picture.



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B.A. Honours PART-I Examinations, 2016

ENGLISH-HONOURS

PAPER-ENGA-II

NEW AND OLD SYLLABUS

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

New Syllabus

Group-A

1. Answer any *one* question within 500 words. 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Are the epic similes in *Paradise Lost*, Book I merely decorative or do they have special narrative functions? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (b) Discuss Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book I as an epic delineating the conflict between good and evil.
 - (c) What does Milton propose in the first few lines of *Paradise Lost*, Book I? Is he following a certain convention in the Invocation? Discuss.

2. Answer any *two* questions within 200 words each. 5×2 = 10
 - (a) Why is Mammon described as 'the least erected spirit that tells'?
 - (b) How does Milton portray the fallen angel Chemosh?
 - (c) 'Better to reign in Hell, than serve in Heav'n' – Contextualise and explain.
 - (d) How was Pandemonium built? Who was the chief architect?

- (e) 'Ethereal temper, massy, large and round, Behind him cast; the broad circumference.

Hung on his shoulders like the Moon' – What is described here? Explain the simile.

Group-B

3. Answer any *one* question within 500 words. 15×1 = 15
- (a) Write a critical note on Pope's use of supernatural machinery in *The Rape of the Lock*.
- (b) 'The Rape of the Lock' is a commentary on the 18th century aristocratic society – Discuss.
- (c) Is Pope's treatment of Belinda in *The Rape of the Lock* a satirical commentary on feminine follies? Discuss with close reference to the text.
4. Answer any *two* questions within 200 words each. 5×2 = 10
- (a) 'Or, as Ixion fixed....' Contextualize and explain.
- (b) Briefly describe the game of Ombre.
- (c) Describe the different types of punishment designed by Ariel for the negligent sylphs.
- (d) How does Belinda react to the snipping of her lock?
- (e) How is the heroic couplet suited to Pope's use of irony in *The Rape of the Lock*?

Group-C

5. Answer any *one* question within 500 words. 15×1 = 15
- (a) Does Gray's *Elegy* conform to the features of a typical *elegy*? Discuss with reference to the text.
- (b) Discuss Blake's 'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger' as studies in contrary states of the human soul.
- (c) 'London' reflects Blake's extreme disillusionment with the sufferings of city life. Discuss with reference to the text.
- (d) Comment on the neo-classical features as depicted in Cowper's 'The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk'.

6. Answer any *three* questions within 200 words each. 5×3 = 15
- (a) What does Blake mean by “when the stars threw down their spears”?
- (b) “I am out of humanity’s reach.
I must finish my journey alone”- Explain.
- (c) Why does Blake use the word ‘charter’d’ in ‘London’ twice?
- (d) What does Gray say about the village poet?
- (e) ‘On a cloud I saw a child
And he laughing said to me’ - What does the child say to the piper?
7. Identify, define and explain the figures of speech to be found in any *one* 15×1 = 15
from the following passages:
- (a) Earth has not anything to show more fair;
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty
The city now doth like a garment wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare
Ships, towers, domes, theatres and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky,
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
- (b) O Wild West Wind, thou breath of Autumn’s being,
Thou, from whose unseen presence the leaves dead,
Are driven, like ghost from an enchanter fleeing.
Yellow and black and pale and hectic red,
Pestilence stricken multitude: O thou
Who chariotest to their dark wintry bed
The winged seeds, where they lie cold and low,
Each like a corpse within its grave, until
Thine azure sister of the spring shall blow.

8. Scan any *one* passage and name the measure, pointing out variations, if any: 5×1 = 5
- (a) I leant upon a coppice gate
When frost was spectre-gray,
And winter dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
- (b) The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave
Awaits alike the inevitable hour:
The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Old Syllabus

Section-I

1. Answer any *three* questions from the following: 5×3 = 15
- (a) What are the main features of the 'Graveyard School of Poetry'? Who were the main exponents of this type of poetry?
- (b) Why is the eighteenth century called the neo-classical age? Give reasons.
- (c) Why are the Pre-Romantic poets called so? Mention any three characteristic features of Pre-Romantic poetry.
- (d) Make a brief comparative estimate of Dryden and Pope as verse satirists.
- (e) Write a short note on Pope's poetic style.