

**West Bengal State University**

**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2012**

**PART-II**

**ENGLISH — General**

**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) Who are Lamb's 'dream children' ?
  - b) Why does Lynd say that two is a serious age ?
  - c) Why does Benson call the essayist the opposite of the romancer ?
  - d) How did the crowd behave when they saw the rifle in the hand of Orwell ?
  - e) Which of the three books did the boy-hero of *Araby* like most and why ?
  - f) Where did Mrs. Thurlow hide her money ? How much had she saved ?
  - g) What did Macey hand over to the boss ? What was its effect ?
  - h) What did Wilson do with the money that he got after his premature retirement ?
  
2. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 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) Consider Robert Lynd as an essayist with reference to his essay *Seaside*.
- d) How does Benson show that the charm of an essay derives from the charm of the personality of the writer ?

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16

- a) Estimate the role of Mr. Woodfield in Katherine Mansfield's, *The Fly*.
- b) *Araby* is a story of both expectation and frustration. Elucidate.
- c) In what ways is the life of Mrs. Thurlow tragic ?
- d) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of Maugham's story *The Lotus Eater*.

4. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16

- a) What part does chance and coincidence play in the action of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* ?
- b) Give your impression of the character of Michael Henchard. Is he a tragic hero or a villain ?
- c) Write a note on the characterization of the minor figures in *Oliver Twist*.
- d) Consider *Oliver Twist* as a social document of its time.

5. Explain with reference to the context : 2 × 10 = 20

- i) a) "He wears a mask, and his face grows to fit it."

OR

- b) "We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence, and a name."

OR

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

- ii) a) "Six years ago, six years ... How quickly time passed It might have happened yesterday."

OR

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

OR

- c) "It was a vehicle of necessity. Her relationship to it was that of a beast to a cart."

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

We cannot conceive two men born with the same physical, mental, and moral nature at the same moment under precisely the same conditions, and using the same language. They would be identical: and everything they uttered would be clothed exactly with the same words. The absurdity of this conception brings home to us the second aspect of style. Style is not merely a sign of those national characteristics which are generic to established languages, and which constitute the so-called genius of a race. It is also a sign of personal qualities specific to individuals, which constitute the genius of a man. Whatever a man utters from his heart and head is the index of his character. The more remarkable a person is, the more strongly differentiated he is from the average of human beings, the more salient will be the characteristic notes of expression. But even the common people have, each of them, a specific style. The marks of difference become microscopical as we descend from Dante or Shakespeare to the dredges of the Clerk's desk in one of our cities. Yet these marks exist, and are no less significant of individuality than the variations of leaf and leaf upon the time trees of an avenue.

*Questions :*

- a) What are the two most important elements that make up style ?
- b) Who are the people who express style most distinctively ?
- c) How can a remarkable human being be differentiated from an average being ?
- d) What is not possible for the author to conceive ? What does he want to say ?

**West Bengal State University**  
**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2012**  
**PART-II**

**ENGLISH — General**  
**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) 'I have never heard a passion so confused,  
So strange, outrageous, and so variable.'  
Who is the speaker ? Who is he referring to ?
  - b) Who was Daniel ? Who is compared to Daniel in 'The Merchant of Venice' and why ?
  - c) 'Notwithstanding, use your pleasure; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.' Whose letter is referred to here ? What news does the letter contain ?
  - d) What does Portia compare mercy to ? Why does she call mercy 'twice blest' ?
  - e) Mention some of the supernatural things seen on the night before the murder of Caesar.
  - f) 'Et tu, Brute ! Then fall, Caesar !' What is the meaning of 'Et tu' ? Why does the speaker say so ?
  - g) Why do the citizens of Rome observe a holiday in the opening scene of *Julius Caesar* ?

- h) 'Here wast thou bayed, brave hart.' Who is the speaker ? Explain the significance of the expression.
- i) Who is Don Quixote ? Why does Bluntschli compare Sergius to Don Quixote ?
- j) 'You have the soul of a servant.' Who says this and of whom ? What is your impression of the speaker ?
- k) What did Raina do with the portrait of Sergius ?
- l) 'It was the cradle and grave of my military reputation.'
- Who says this ? What is the meaning of this statement ?

**GROUP - B**

2. Answer the following questions

2 × 16 = 32

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

OR

- ii) Comment on the theme of love as portrayed by Shakespeare in *The Merchant of Venice*.

OR

- iii) Comment on the role played by the Roman mob in *Julius Caesar*.

OR

- iv) Attempt a character sketch of Mark Antony and with close reference to the text compare Brutus and Mark Antony as orators.

- b) i) 'Bluntschli is the figure through whom Shaw expresses his ideas of war and love.' Discuss.

OR

- ii) Write a note on Shaw's wit and humour illustrating your answer from *Arms and the Man*.

3. Explain with reference to the context any *two* of the following : 2 × 8 = 16
- a) Your wife would give you little thanks for that  
If she were by, to hear you make the offer.
  - b) The man that hath no music in himself,  
nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,  
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.
  - c) Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,  
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice  
Cry havoc ! and let slip the dogs of war ...
  - d) 'These growing features pluck'd from Caesar's wing,  
Will make him fly an ordinary pitch.
  - e) I have gone through the war like a Knight in a tournament with his lady looking  
down at him.
  - f) I can't help it. When you strike that noble attitude and speak in that thrilling  
voice, I admire you; but I find it impossible to believe a single word you say.

**GROUP - C**

4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics 1 × 20 = 20
- a) Science and religion.
  - b) The position of women in India today.
  - c) Indian cinema and its social responsibility.
  - d) Reading literature.
5. Write notes on any *five* of the following : 5 × 4 = 20
- a) Epic
  - b) Tragedy
  - c) Soliloquy
  - d) Imagery
  - e) Lyric
  - f) Comedy
  - g) Symbol
  - h) Dramatic monologue.