

2010

ENGLISH

FOURTH PAPER

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

(New Syllabus)

1. Answer any five questions from the following : 12×5=60
- (a) How does Addison voice his concern for women of his time in *The Uses of the Spectator*? Give a reasoned answer.
- (b) Write a critical assessment of Johnson's views on Metaphysical poetry in *Life of Cowley*.
- (c) A striking feature of Lamb's essays is his ability to sketch humorous characters. Discuss Lamb's portrayal of such characters in *My Relations*.

- (d) Critically consider Keats' use of the personal letter. Discuss how the letters, prescribed in your syllabus, throw light on the character of the writer and his milieu.
- (e) Russell's *Autobiography* draws attention to questions of 'authenticity' and 'fictionality' in an autobiography. From your reading of the first two chapters of the *Autobiography*, show how Russell addresses these questions.
- (f) Discuss Matthew Arnold's views on poetry in *Preface to Poems* (1853).
- (g) Can nationalism be seen as a political positioning of a race? To what extent does Tagore express this realization? Critically explore with reference to the essay, *Nationalism in the West*.

2. Explain, any two of the following, with reference to the context : 4×2=8

- (a) "I hate people who meet time halfway. I am for no compromise with that inevitable spoiler."
- (b) "The modernness or antiquity of an action therefore, has nothing to do with its fitness for poetical representation; this depends upon its inherent qualities."

- (c) "No age can have been more rich than ours in writers determined to give expression to the differences which separate them from the past and not to the resemblances which connect them with it."

3. Write short notes on any three of the following : 4×3=12

- (a) Keats' concept of imagination
- (b) Character of the 'spectator' in *The Spectator's Account of Himself*
- (c) Biography
- (d) The essay as literary form
- (e) The personal letter as autobiography

(Old Syllabus)

*Write the answers to the two Halves in
separate books*

FIRST HALF

4. Answer any four of the following : 10×4=40

- (a) How well do you think that the writers of *Genesis* balance the 'story' elements against the 'unquestionable' assumptions about salvation through divine grace? Give a well-considered response.
- (b) Do you agree that in his essays Addison is as much concerned with 'characterization' as with an agenda for promoting a social morality that is marked by middle-class values? Write your answer by referring to the prescribed essays.
- (c) Do you agree that the inspiration for Milton's *Areopagitica* is essentially theological? Write your answer on the basis of the prescribed extracts, and also by considering the context in which the work was written.

- (d) Do you think that Dr. Johnson's conception of the self is 'evolving' and 'dynamic' or 'stable' and 'static'? Write a well-argued answer, taking any two of the prescribed *Lives*.
- (e) "Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson* is not a biography at all, but a collection of diary entries." Do you agree with this view? Give a well-considered response.

SECOND HALF

5. Answer any *two* of the following : 14×2=28

- (a) Consider the view that in his essays Lamb is both playful and polemical.
- (b) Do you agree that Hazlitt's essay *My First Acquaintance with Poets* is not only about romantic poets but is itself an exemplar of romantic writing because of the 'personal' element and the context of 'nature' that is used? Give a well-considered response.
- (c) What are the qualities that Carlyle looks for in his poet-heroes? Consider the significance of these qualities, keeping in mind the conventional standards of heroism and poetic attribute.

(d) Is Orwell's *England, Your England* about the much talked about quality of 'Englishness' or do you think that the writer succeeds in sounding broader themes as well? Give a well-argued answer.

(e) Analyze Russell's essay, *Has Religion Made any Useful Contribution* in terms of its strategic effectiveness as an argument.

6. Explain any two of the following passages :

6×2=12

(a) She came not for doctrinal points, and never missed them. With some little asperities in her constitution, which I have above hinted at, she was a steadfast, friendly being, and a fine old Christian.

(b) And for myself, I could not have been more delighted if I had heard the music of the spheres. Poetry and philosophy had met together.

(c) But now, I say, whoever may forget this divine mystery, the Vates, whether Prophet or Poet, has penetrated into it; is a man sent hitherto make it more impressively known to us.

- (d) The second characteristic of mysticism is its belief in unity, and its refusal to admit opposition or division anywhere. We found Heraclitus saying, "good and ill are one"; and again he says, "the way up and the way down is one and the same."

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