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ENGLISH

FOURTH PAPER

Full Marks : 64

Time : 3 hours

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

BLOCK—I

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

(a) Do you agree that nonfictional prose has always occupied a marginal position in literary history despite the practitioners of this genre having been some of the most eminent names in literature? Give a well-considered response, giving reasons for such a phenomenon.

(b) Do you agree that a blend of 'humour' and 'social realism' explains the success of the spectator essays in voicing and representing the contemporary social concerns? Give reasons for your answer.

- (c) What light do Keats' letters throw on poetic inspiration, inheritance, influence and tradition? Write your answer with illustrations from the prescribed letters.
- (d) How is Arnold's invocation of the practice of the ancients related to his main argument in *Preface to Poems*? Give necessary illustrations from the text.
- (e) Do you agree that Woolf's *How It Strikes a Contemporary* succeeds as essay but fails as literary criticism? Give reasons for your answer.
- (f) Do you agree that Lamb's essay (prescribed for you) exemplifies a typical Romantic obsession with the individual character? Give a well-considered response.
- (g) On what grounds does Tagore criticise nationalism and how persuasive is his critique? Give a balanced response.

BLOCK—II

2. Show how Johnson overcomes or tackles the issue of Milton belonging to a different time period and different religious persuasion in *Life of Milton*.

12

Or

If life-writing revolves round the question of fulfillment and worthiness, discuss how Johnson deals with the question of Milton's fulfillment and achievement, considering that he harboured a strong revulsion for many of the things that Milton stood for.

3. Write notes on (any two) : 6×2=12

- (a) Milton as a family man
- (b) Russell and his grandmother
- (c) *Cambridge Years* (Autobiography)
