

2011

ENGLISH

SECOND PAPER

Full Marks : 64

Time : 3 hours

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

BLOCK—I

1. Answer any *two* from the following : 8×2=16

- (a) Describe the social and religious structures that emerge from Chaucer's descriptions of individual characters in *The Prologue*, and point towards any poetic bias that you might find.
- (b) Comment on contemporary debates on time and mortality and show how Shakespeare deals with these issues in his sonnets. Give examples from the poems you have read.
- (c) Show the variation of tone and idiom as you proceed from the poems of love by John Donne addressed to women and those addressed to God. Cite adequate examples from the text to make your point.

2. Write short notes on any two of the following : 4×2=8

- (a) The women characters in Chaucer's *The Prologue*
- (b) The two 'idealised' characters in Chaucer's *The Prologue*
- (c) The 'speaking voice' in Shakespeare's sonnets
- (d) Donne's conception of the 'dichotomy' between the soul and the body

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

- (a) Oh carve not with thy hours my love's  
fair brow,  
Nor draw no lines there with thine  
antique pen;  
Him in thy course untainted do allow  
For beauty's pattern to succeeding men.
- (b) My face in thine eye, thine in mine appears,  
And true plain hearts do in the faces rest;  
Where can we find two better hemispheres,  
Without sharp North, without declining West?
- (c) ... .. Why swell'st thou then?  
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,  
And Death shall be no more : Death,  
thou shalt die!

BLOCK—II

4. Answer any *two* from the following :  $8 \times 2 = 16$

(a) Read Milton's epic as a document of its time, but under the garb of Christian mythology. Try and relate the political underpinnings of the work to the world that the poet inhabited.

(b) Discuss how political allegory and satire become potent forms during Dryden's time and show how *Mac Flecknoe* is among the important works in this category.

(c) Show how Pope is concerned with life and letters and therefore, the intellectual life of the society in which he writes. Also assess the tremendous influence he asserted in this sphere as is obvious from his poetry, especially *The Dunciad*.

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :  $4 \times 2 = 8$

(a) Pandemonium in *Paradise Lost*, Book I

(b) The 'conversation' of the Fallen Angels in *Paradise Lost*, Book I

- (c) Pope's exposition on the notion of 'Dullness'
- (d) Dryden's direct attack on a poetic/political opponent in *Mac Flecknoe*

6. Explain any *two* with reference to the context : 4×2=8

(a) Say first, for Heav'n hides nothing from  
thy view  
Nor the deep Tract of Hell, say first  
what cause  
Mov'd our Grandparents in that  
happy state,  
Favour'd of Heav'n so highly, to fall off ...

(b) Of darkness visible so much be lent,  
As half to shew, half veil the deep Intent.  
Ye Pow'rs whose Mysteries restor'd I sing  
To whom Time bears me on his rapid wing,  
Suspend a while your Force inertly strong,  
Then take at once the Poet and the Song.

(c) Shadwell alone of all my sons is he  
Who stands confirmed in full stupidity.  
The rest to some faint meaning  
make pretence,  
But Shadwell never deviates into sense.

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