



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: $10 \times 2 = 20$
 - (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: $2 \times 5 = 10$
batchmate, communal, tiffin-box, gospel, egg, brethren, kindergarten, gossip, cheap, picture.

OLD SYLLABUS

SECTIONS-I & II

1. Answer any *four* from the following: 5×4 = 20
- (a) What impression of Old English society do you form from your reading of *Beowulf*? Illustrate with suitable examples.
 - (b) Write a short note on the characteristics of Old English elegiac poetry with special reference to any one poem.
 - (c) Write a brief note on the contribution of either Ælfric or Wulfstan.
 - (d) Write a brief note on the contribution of either Malory or Caxton.
 - (e) Discuss Gower's style of writing with reference to any one of his poems.
 - (f) Comment on the importance of 'Prologue' to Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

SECTIONS-III, IV & V

2. Answer any *three* questions from the following: 10×3 = 30
- (a) Comment on Shakespeare's use of imagery in Sonnet no. 116.
 - (b) Would you consider 'Loving in Truth' as a poem about writing poetry? Justify your answer.
 - (c) In what respects may 'The Retreat' be called a typically Metaphysical poem?
 - (d) Assess 'The Good Morrow' or 'To His Coy Mistress' as a typical metaphysical love lyric.
3. Answer any *one* question from the following: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Bacon's work is one of practical wisdom and forcible expression. Do you agree? Illustrate your answer with reference to any one of the essays prescribed in your syllabus.

- (b) Mention two important features of Jacobean prose with reference to the extract you have read either of Richard Burton or of Thomas Browne.
4. Answer any *five* questions from the following: 2×5 = 10
- (a) Bring out the significance of the expression "... love is not love/
Which alters when it alteration finds".
- (b) Explain the line "Whatever dies was not mixed equally".
- (c) How, according to Bacon, can mental ailments be cured by studies?
- (d) What is the meaning of the expression "imagineis imago"?
- (e) How does Vaughan feel 'bright shoots of everlastingness' through all the 'fleshly dress'?
- (f) Discuss the difference between the rhyme schemes employed in Petrarchan and Shakespearean sonnets?
- (g) In which year was Tyndale's *Bible* first published?
- (h) What is meant by truant pen in Sidney's 'Loving in Truth'?

SECTION-VI

5. Scan the following passage. Identify the predominant meter and indicate the variations, if any: 5

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

SECTION-VII

6. Answer any *five* questions from the following:

5×5 = 25

- (a) Briefly discuss and illustrate the Scandinavian influence on English grammar.
- (b) Write a note on Pre-Christian Latin loan words.
- (c) Examine the influence of French loan words on English language relating to any two fields.
- (d) Write a note on American slang.
- (e) Explain with examples the difference between free and fixed compounds.
- (f) What is Johnsonese? Explain with suitable examples.
- (g) Write a short note on 'Back-formation'.
- (h) Explain with examples how new words are formed in English by "adding nothing at all."