



**WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY**

B.A. Honours PART-I Examinations, 2018

**ENGLISH-HONOURS**

**PAPER-ENGA-I**

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.*

**Group-A**

1. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Write a note on the characteristic features of Anglo-Saxon epic poetry with special reference to *Beowulf*.
- (b) Assess the contribution of Cynewulf to the Anglo-Saxon Christian poetry.
- (c) Attempt a critical survey of Middle English Alliterative Romances with special reference to 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight'.
2. Answer any **three** questions from the following within 200 words each: 5×3 = 15
- (a) Write a brief note on Anglo-Saxon elegiac poetry with special reference to 'The Husband's Message' and 'The Wife's Lament'.
- (b) Why is Alfred called the father of English prose?
- (c) Where is Canterbury? When according to Chaucer, do pilgrims want to go there? Describe the season after Chaucer.
- (d) Assess the contribution of Gower in Middle English literature.
- (e) Write a brief note on the salient features of the writings of either John Wyclif OR Sir Thomas Malory.

**Group-B**

3. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Assess 'Loving in Truth' as a typical Petrarchan sonnet.
- (b) How does Shakespeare parody the Petrarchan tradition in his sonnet 130?
- (c) How does Marvell treat the theme of 'carpe diem' in the poem 'To His Coy Mistress'?

4. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Write a note on Bacon's prose style with reference to his essay 'Of Death'.
  - (b) Write a note on the development of Bible translations culminating in the Authorized Version of the Bible, 1611.
  - (c) How does Burton examine the phenomenon of melancholy in the prescribed extract of *The Anatomy of Melancholy*?
5. Answer any **two** questions from the following within 200 words each: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Comment on the dramatic element in Spenser's 'One day I wrote her name'.
  - (b) Explain with reference to the context:  
'And we in us find the eagle and the dove'.
  - (c) Explain the significance of the line:  
'There grows the flow'r of peace,  
The rose that cannot wither,  
Thy fortress, and thy ease.'
  - (d) Explain 'Whoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god'.
  - (e) Critically comment on the image of the dying fire as delineated in Sonnet 73 of Shakespeare.

### **Group-C**

6. Answer any **two** questions from the following within 450 words each: 10×2 = 20
- (a) Write briefly on the French borrowings into English.
  - (b) Write a note on the Latin borrowings during the Renaissance period.
  - (c) Write short notes on (i) Hybridism in the English language (ii) Malapropism.
  - (d) Examine the Scandinavian influence on English grammar and syntax.
  - (e) Comment on loan words and loan translations of words of Indian origin into modern English.
7. Write philological notes on any **five** of the following: 2×5 = 10
- Tiffin-box, batchmate, communal, brethren, cheap, picture, gossip, four-twenty, gospel, kindergarten.

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**PAPER-ENGA-II**

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

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**Group-A**

1. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Are the epic similes in *Paradise Lost*, Book I merely decorative or do they have special narrative functions? Give reasons for your answer.
- (b) Analyze *Paradise Lost*, Book I as a Secondary epic.
- (c) To what extent does Milton deviate from the general convention of Invocation in the first few lines of *Paradise Lost*, Book I? Why, in your opinion, does he do so?
2. Answer any **two** questions from the following within 200 words each: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Comment on the Vallombrosa simile pointing out its significance.
- (b) Describe the shield of Satan.
- (c) Comment on the creation of Pandemonium.
- (d) How does Milton portray the fallen angel Moloch?
- (e) Why does Satan say “All is not lost” despite his defeat?

**Group-B**

3. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) How does Pope use irony and humour to present the contemporary society in *The Rape of the Lock*?
- (b) Is Pope’s treatment of Belinda in *The Rape of the Lock* a satirical commentary on feminine follies? Discuss with close reference to the text.
- (c) Write a critical note on the supernatural machinery in *The Rape of the Lock*.
4. Answer any **two** questions from the following within 200 words each: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Write a note on gnomes.
- (b) How does Pope describe Belinda’s reaction when her lock is snipped off?
- (c) Describe the Game of Ombre.
- (d) Annotate :
- A heavenly image in the glass appears;  
To that she bends, to that her eyes she rears.

- (e) What are the tasks assigned to the different sylphs by Ariel to protect Belinda?

**Group-C**

5. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Gray's 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' as a pre-Romantic poem.
- (b) How does Blake present two contrary states of the human soul in 'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger'?
- (c) Comment on Blake's use of symbols in his poem 'London'.
- (d) Discuss Cowper's 'The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk' as a transitional poem.
6. Answer any **three** questions from the following within 200 words each: 5×3 = 15
- (a) Explain: "Let not ambition mock their useful toil".
- (b) What are the sound images used by Blake in 'London'?
- (c) Explain: "When the stars threw down their spears".
- (d) What does the child in the cloud ask the bard to do?
- (e) How does Selkirk console himself at the end of the poem?
7. Identify, define and explain the figures of speech to be found in any **one** of the following passages: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour:  
England hath need of thee: she is a fen  
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,  
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,  
Have forfeited their ancient English dower  
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men;  
Oh! raise us up, return to us again;  
And give us manners, virtue, freedom, power.
- (b) Tomarrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow  
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day,  
To the last syllable of recorded time;  
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death.
8. Scan any **one** passage and name the measure, pointing out variations, if any: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Half a league, half a league  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.
- (b) The shadow of the dome of pleasure  
Floated midway on the waves  
Where was heard the mingled measure  
From the fountain and the caves.

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