

2025

(November-December)

ENGLISH

Paper: ENG-M-101

British Literature : 14th to 17th Century

Time: 2½ Hours

Total Mark: 60

Pass marks: 18

(The figures in the right margin indicate full marks of the questions)

UNIT I

1. Answer any one of the following questions: 1×10=10
- (a) Discuss the three phases of the poetical career of Geoffrey Chaucer.
- (b) Discuss the characteristics of the English Renaissance and its influence on the development of English literature.
- (c) Assess the contribution of the University Wits in the development of English drama during the Pre-Elizabethan period.
- (d) Analyse how Metaphysical Poetry reflects the scientific and philosophical thoughts of the age.

UNIT II

2. Answer any two of the following questions: 2×10=10
- (a) Discuss how Shakespeare balances the theme of mercy and justice in *The Merchant of Venice*.

- (b) Discuss Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* as a tragedy-comedy.
- (c) Analyse the depiction of women in *The Merchant of Venice*. How do Portia and Nerissa challenge or conform to Elizabethan gender norms?
- (d) How does Shakespeare portray the destructive power of jealousy in the play *Othello*.
- (e) Critically examine Iago's manipulative nature and his role in the tragedy of *Othello*.

3. Answer any one of the following questions: 1×5=5

- (a) Write a brief note on the trial scene in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.
- (b) Discuss briefly the character of the Jew in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.
- (c) Attempt a character sketch of Desdemona.
- (d) Explain the following with reference to the context any one of the following:
- (i) "Hath not a Jew eyes?
Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses
affections, passions?"
- (ii) What noise is this? - Not dead? Not yet quite dead?
I am cruel am yet merciful, I would not have thee linger in
thy pain.
So, so"

UNIT III

4. Answer any one of the following questions: 1×10=10
- (a) Discuss how Shakespeare treats the theme of time, love and decay in the sonnets prescribed for your study.

- (b) Write a critical appreciation of John Donne's poem "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning".
- (c) Analyse Philip Sidney's Sonnet 52 ("A Strife is Grown Between Virtue and Love") as a reflection of the inner moral conflict of the Renaissance lover.
- (d) Discuss the theme of love and courtship in Spenser's Sonnets prescribed in your syllabus.

5. Answer any one of the following questions: 1×5=5

- (a) What idea of beauty does Shakespeare challenge in *Sonnet 130*?
- (b) What is the central conflict expressed by the speaker in George Herbert's "The Collar"?
- (c) Explain the following with reference to the context any one of the followings:

(i) Had we but world enough and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime.

(ii) But as I raved and grew fierce and wild
At every word,

Methought I heard one calling, *Child!*
And I replied *My Lord*.

(iii) And therefore, though her beauty and her grace
Be Love's indeed, in Stella's self he may
By no pretence claim any manner place.

- (iv) "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May
And summer's lease hath all too short a date."

UNIT IV

6. Answer any one of the following questions:

1×10=10

- (a) Explain Bacon's views on human nature and revenge in his essay "*Of Revenge*".
- (b) Analyse Bacon's essay "*Of Studies*" as a reflection on the purpose, method, and value of learning in human life.
- (c) "A principal fruit of friendship, is the ease and discharge of the fullness and swellings of the heart, which passions of all kinds do cause and induce." Examine the significance of these lines from your reading of Bacon's essay "*Of Friendship*".
