

PART III EXAMINATION SAMPLE QUESTION PAPERS

B.A. PART III EXAMINATION
ENGLISH HONOURS Paper V

Full Marks: 100

Examination Time: 4 hours.

*Answers that are to the point, precise and clear will be given special credit.
Spelling and grammatical errors are liable to be penalised.*

SECTION 1

1. Attempt **any four** of the following questions: 5x4 = 20
- (a) Comment on the significance of the publication of the *Lyrical Ballads*.
 - (b) How did 'doubt' affect the poets of the Victorian age? Refer to poets and their poems.
 - (c) What did Coleridge mean by the term 'secondary imagination'?
 - (d) What kind of poetry was written by Ellis, Currer and Acton Bell?
 - (e) Name two poets of the First World War and the significance of their work.
 - (f) Explain what is meant by the Symbolist Movement in Literature.

SECTION 2

2. Answer **any one** of the following: 10x1= 10
- (a) Trace the changes in Wordsworth's relationship to Nature as recorded in 'Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey'.
 - (b) Consider Coleridge's use of the supernatural in 'Kubla Khan' or 'Christabel –Part I.
 - (c) What is an Ode? Analyse 'Ode to the West Wind', 'To a Skylark' or 'To Autumn' as examples of the Romantic adaptation of the classical Ode.
3. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2= 10
- (a) Comment on Wordsworth's feelings on the death of Lucy.
 - (b) Describe, after the poet P.B. Shelley, the statue of Ozymandias.
 - (c) Explain the use of images in the following lines:
"Before my pen has glean'd my teeming brain,
Before high-piled books, in charactery,
Hold like rich garners the full ripen'd grain;"
 - (d) Explain the context in the following lines:
"If I should meet thee
After long years,
How should I greet thee?
With silence and tears."

SECTION 3

4. Answer **any one** of the following: 10x1= 10
- (a) Comment on Tennyson's attitude to life in 'Ulysses'.
 - (b) How do the poems of Matthew Arnold express his response to the Victorian Age?
Answer with reference to either 'To Marguerite' or 'Dover Beach'.

- (c) Do the monologues of Browning engage with the realities of the Victorian age?
Answer with reference to “Fra Lippo Lippi” or “Andrea del Sarto”.
5. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2= 10
- (a) Explain the phrase “ignorant armies clash by night”.
 (b) Write briefly on the real life figures of Fra Lippo Lippi or Andrea Del Sarto.
 (c) Explain the significance: “Out flew the web and floated wide”.
 (d) “I nibbled here and there
 At this or that box, pulling through the gap”. Explain with reference to the context.

SECTION 4

6. Answer **any one** of the following: 10x1= 10
- (a) Indicate two characteristics of modernism that you have identified in “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” or “Journey of the Magi”.
 (b) Comment on the theme of Seamus Heaney’s poem “Digging”.
 (c) Discuss Owen’s “Dulce et Decorum Est” as a critique of patriotism.
7. Answer **any three** of the following: 5x3= 15
- (a) Explain: “Come from the holy fire, perne in as gyre
 And be the singing masters of my soul”.
 (b) Why is the church “A serious house on serious earth”?
 (c) “He was my North, my South, my East and West,
 My working week and Sunday rest” Annotate and explain the context.
 (d) Explain the significance of the expression “Thought Fox”.
 (e) “Just the worst time of the year
 For a journey, and such a long journey:” Whose journey is it? Explain the nature of the journey.
8. Answer **any five** of the following: 3x5=15
- (a) What are the characteristics that make Lucy ‘Nature’s child’?
 (b) What or where is Xanadu?
 (c) Where is Byzantium? What does it represent?
 (d) What is the poet referring to in the phrase “Bacchus and his pards”?
 (e) Who is Michaelangelo? Why do the ladies talk of him?
 (f) How does Eliot describe the evening in “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”?
 (g) Comment on two images of pity in Owen’s poem “Dulce et Decorum Est”.
 (h) Is Keats’s poem “When I have fears...” a Petrarchan sonnet? Explain.

B.A. PART III EXAMINATION ENGLISH HONOURS Paper VI

Full Marks: 100

Examination Time: 4 hours.

*Answers that are to the point, precise and clear will be given special credit.
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SECTION 1

1. Answer briefly **any four** of the following: 5x4=20
- (a) What is meant by the term a 'well-made play'?
 - (b) Write a note on Irish nationalist theatre.
 - (c) What is the contribution of John Galsworthy to British drama?
 - (d) Explain the term 'Drama of the Absurd' by referring to suitable examples.
 - (e) Who is Bertolt Brecht and what significant contribution did he make to European drama? Name any two plays written by him.
 - (f) What is the difference between a radio play and a screen play?

SECTION 2

2. Answer **any two** of the following: 15x2=30
- (a) Why is Bernard Shaw's play *Candida* sub-titled *A Mystery*? Discuss cogently with reference to the play.
Or,
 - (b) Critically analyse the character of James Morell with suitable references to the play.
 - (c) Is *Major Barbara* as a 'discussion play'? Give reasons for your answer.
Or,
 - (d) What is the role played by Undershaft in *Major Barbara*?
Or,
 - (e) Why is *Riders to the Sea* called a poetic play?
Or,
 - (f) How important is the role of the sea in Synge's play *Riders to the Sea*?
 - (g) What is the theme of *The Playboy of the Western World*?
Or,
 - (h) Critically analyse the character of Christy Mahon.
 - (i) How does Pinter depict the character of the tramp in *The Caretaker*?
Or,
 - (j) Can you classify Pinter's play *The Caretaker* as an absurd drama? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Answer **six** of the following taking three each from any **two groups**: 5x6=30
- GROUP 1.**
- (a) "I like a man to be true to himself, even in wickedness." Explain.
 - (b) Miss Garnett
 - (c) "But how can I watch and pray when I am asleep?" Context and significance.
 - (d) "I'm sorry, James, to have to make a complaint to you. I don't want to do it; but I feel I oughter, as a matter o' right and dooty." Comment on the language.
- GROUP 2.**
- (e) The Salvation Army
 - (f) "You've been at Harrow and Cambridge". Explain and annotate.
 - (g) Snobby Price
 - (h) "Ellow! If you ain't took it summun else az. Were's it gorn? Blame me if Jenny Ill didn't take it arter all!" Who is the speaker? Comment on the language.

GROUP 3.

- (i) "...in this place it is the young men do be leaving things behind..." Comment on the use of language.
- (j) Cathleen
- (k) white boards
- (l) Bride Dara

GROUP 4.

- (m) Pegeen's father
- (n) "if they find his corpse stretched above in the dews of dawn, what'll you say then to the peelers, or the Justice of the Peace?" Explain with reference to the context.
- (o) Wicklow sheep
- (p) "They're cheering a young lad, the champion Playboy of the Western World." Explain.

GROUP 5.

- (q) Explain Aston's silence at the end of the play.
- (r) Mick
- (s) Who is the 'caretaker' in the play and why?
- (t) "I've lived all my life in the air, boy", Who is the speaker and what is the significance of the lines.

SECTION 3

4. Write a substance of the following poem and critically comment on the ideas and language, technique, style and form : 10+10=20

Forty-two years ago (to me if to no one else
The number is of some interest) it was a brilliant starry night
And the westward train was empty and had no corridors
So darting from side to side I could catch the unwonted sight
Of those almost intolerably bright
Holes, punched in the sky, which excited me partly because
Of their Latin names and partly because I had read in the textbooks
How very far off they were, it seemed their light
Had left them (some at least) long years before I was.

And this remembering now I mark that what
Light was leaving some of them at least then,
Forty-two years ago, will never arrive
In time for me to catch it, which light when
It does get here may find that there is not
Anyone left alive
To run from side to side in a late night train
Admiring it and adding noughts in vain.

B.A. PART III EXAMINATION
ENGLISH HONOURS Paper VII

Full Marks: 100

Examination Time: 4 hours.

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SECTION 1

1. Answer briefly **any four** of the following: 5x4=20
- (a) What is a Bildungsroman? Consider any modern novel in this category.
 - (b) Identify any two factors/events that left their impact on the writing of the novel in the 20th century.
 - (c) Comment on E.M. Forster as a novelist. Name at least two of his novels.
 - (d) How important is the plot to the 20th century novel?
 - (e) Consider the contribution to modern fiction of two women novelists of the post 1950s generation.
 - (f) Examine at least one common theme that persists in the works of modern fiction.

SECTION 2

2. Answer **any one** of the following: 15x1=15
- (a) Paul Morel in *Sons and Lovers* has been called 'a crippled hero'. In what ways is Paul different from more conventional heroes of fiction?
Or,
 - (b) What does Lawrence's use of dialect contribute to the impact of *Sons and Lovers*?
 - (c) Is Orwell's *1984* likely to be classified as dystopic fiction?
Or,
 - (d) Orwell's *1984* is a fantasy rather than a satire. Discuss critically.
 - (e) Critically examine the lighthouse as the organising symbol in Virginia Woolf's *To The Lighthouse*.
Or,
 - (f) Comment on Virginia Woolf's narrative technique in *To The Lighthouse*.
 - (g) Is *The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* Joyce's autobiography? Argue your answer cogently.
Or,
 - (h) Comment on the narrative technique used by Joyce in *The Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*.
3. Answer **three** of the following from any one group of your choice. 5x3=15
- GROUP 1.**
- (a) "Who could say that his mother had lived and did not live? She had been in one place, and was in another; that was all." Explain and comment.
 - (b) Walter Morel
 - (c) Hell Row
 - (d) "Half the time he grieved for her, half the time he hated her." Explain with reference

to the context.

GROUP 2.

- (e) Big Brother
- (f) Social hierarchy in Oceania
- (g) "*Doublethink* means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them." Comment.
- (h) "Power is in tearing human minds to pieces and putting them together again in new shapes of your own choosing." Explain.

GROUP 3

- (i) "The Lighthouse was then a silvery, misty-looking tower with a yellow eye, that opened suddenly, and softly in the evening." Comment on the imagery.
- (j) Lily Briscoe
- (k) What is the location of the lighthouse in Woolf's novel?
- (l) The Sea as a symbol

GROUP 4

- (m) "Pull out his eyes,
Apologize,
Apologize,
Pull out his eyes."
Comment on the significance of these lines.
- (n) "She seemed like one whom magic had changed into the likeness of a strange and beautiful seabird." Explain and comment.
- (o) Parnell and Irish nationalism
- (p) Significance of the name Dedalus.

SECTION 3

4. Answer **any one** of the following: 15x1=15
- (a) Justify the title of the story 'Counterparts'.
 - (b) What is the significance of Kew Gardens in the life of its visitors?
 - (c) How does 'The Machine Stops' show the ultimate degeneration of technology?
 - (d) Comment on Lawrence's treatment of Elsie's psychological crisis in 'The White Stocking'.
 - (e) Would you agree that typical Conradian themes of honour, duty and betrayal are repeated in 'The Black Mate'?
 - (f) Comment on the narrative technique of 'Across the Bridge' by Graham Greene.
5. Answer **any three** of the following: 5x3=15
- (a) Comment on the incident at Mulligan's involving Farrington and Weathers.
 - (b) What does the snail signify in 'Kew Garden's'?
 - (c) Indicate two characteristics of Conrad's prose style that you can identify in 'The Black Mate'.
 - (d) What role does class play in 'The White Stocking'?
 - (e) Why is "The Machine Stops" a 'modern' short story?
 - (f) What role does the Mexican setting play in 'Across the Bridge'?

SECTION 4

6. Attempt to write an essay on **any one** of the following: 20
- (a) The Role of an Audience in Drama
 - (b) Reading a Novel
 - (c) Landscape in Literature
 - (d) English in India Today

B.A. PART III EXAMINATION
ENGLISH HONOURS Paper VIII

Full Marks: 100

Examination Time: 4 hours.

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Indian Writing in English (Option 1)

SECTION 1

1. Write brief notes on **any four** of the following: 5x4=20
- (a) Explain the terms 'langue' and 'parole'.
 - (b) Indicate three differences between Modernism and Postmodernism.
 - (c) First-wave Feminism
 - (d) Patriarchy
 - (e) Hybridity
 - (f) Classical Marxism

SECTION 2

2. Answer **any one** of the following: 10
- (a) Who is the 'English teacher' in R.K. Narayan's novel? How does his career unfold in *The English Teacher*?
 - Or,
 - (b) Which incident would you call the turning point in *The English Teacher*? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (c) In *Kanthapura* how does a village become the microcosm of traditional Indian society?
 - Or,
 - (d) Write a note on Gandhian nationalism as it is reflected in a village community in Raja Rao's novel *Kanthapura*.
 - (e) Is Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* a postmodern novel? Give reasons for your answer.
 - Or,
 - (f) How does location play a significant role in Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*?
 - (g) What aspects of Bengali culture does Sunetra Gupta highlight in *Memories of Rain*?

Or,

(h) How are cultural differences reflected in the central relationship in *Memories of Rain*?

3. Answer briefly **any two** of the following from any one group of your choice: 5x2=10

GROUP 1

- (a) Typhoid and Sushila
- (b) The astrologer
- (c) 'The law of life can't be avoided. The law comes into operation the moment we detach ourselves from our mother's womb.' Comment.

GROUP 2

- (d) Old Ramakrishnayya
- (e) 'Kenchamma, Kenchamma, Goddess benign and bounteous.' Comment.
- (f) Harikathas

GROUP 3

- (g) Biju's experience of migration
- (h) 'When you build on lies, you build strong and solid. It was the truth that undid you.' Comment.
- (i) Gorkhas

GROUP 4

- (j) Significance of any one of Rabindranath's songs used in the novel.
- (k) 'this rain is ravishing he told her, this rain is like an inexhaustible torrent of love...' Comment
- (l) Oxford Street in the opening lines of the novel.

SECTION 3

4. Answer **any one** of the following: 10

- (a) Is 'The Accompanist' by Anita Desai an allegory? Give reasons for your answer.
- (b) Justify the title of Mulk Raj Anand's story 'The Terrorist'.
- (c) Comment critically on the plot in Bhabani Bhattacharya's short story 'Glory at Twilight'.
- (d) What is the role of the 'Charioteer' in Sashi Deshpande's short story?
- (e) How does the writer create a sense of 'place' in the story 'The Journey'?
- (f) Would you call Bond's story 'My Father's Trees at Dehra' a reminiscence?

5. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2=10

- (a) "...but his fingers were the fingers of a god, absolutely in control of his instrument and I knew nothing...." Explain the significance.
- (b) Give a pen-picture of two characters other than the terrorist who feature in Anand's story.
- (c) Give two instances of how the author evokes scenes of rural Bengal in 'Glory at Twilight'.

- (d) 'Happiness can mean so many things to so many people. For me, it is this.'
Explain with reference to the context.
- (e) Indicate briefly who makes 'The Journey' and why?
- (f) Identify the ecological concerns that are evident in Ruskin Bond's short story.

SECTION 4

6. Answer **any one** of the following: 10
- (a) Comment on any feminist concerns that you have identified in Toru Dutt or Sarojini Naidu's poems that you have read.
- (b) How is the theme of Ezekiel's poem 'Poet, Lover, Bird Watcher' expressed through the imagery? Give illustrations from the text.
- (c) How does Jayanta Mahapatra bring together his personal deprivation and the real world of poverty in his poem 'Hunger'?
7. Comment with reference to the context **any two** of the following: 5x2=10
- (a) "The mighty perish in their might;
The slain survive the slayer."
- (b) "You look right at the sky.
Clear through the bullet holes
she has for her eyes."
- (c) "...there Red Champak trees
had done it again"
- (d) "The years have given me little wisdom,
And I've dislodged myself to find it."
- (e) "For, love is Narcissus at the water's edge"

SECTION 5

8. (a) Comment on the importance of stage techniques in Dattani's play *Bravely Fought The Queen or Tara*. 10
- Or,
- (b) Do you consider that the title of Dattani's play *Bravely Fought The Queen or Tara* is appropriately related to the dramatic action? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2=10
- (a) Comment on Naina Devi's thumri Or, on *The Mirror Cracked*
- (b) 'I grow bonsai plants—I've been growing them for years.' Explain with reference to the context.
- Or,
- 'In poetry, even the most turbulent emotions can be recollected when one is half asleep.' Explain with reference to the context.
- (c) Role of Kanhaiya Or, Dr Thakker

B.A. PART III EXAMINATION
ENGLISH HONOURS Paper VIII

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American Literature (Option 2)

SECTION 1

1. Write brief notes on **any four** of the following: 5x4=20
- (a) Explain the terms 'langue' and 'parole'.
 - (b) Indicate three differences between Modernism and Postmodernism.
 - (c) First-wave Feminism
 - (d) Patriarchy
 - (e) Hybridity
 - (f) Classical Marxism

SECTION 2

2. Answer **any one** of the following: 10
- (a) Is freedom the central theme in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*? Give reasons for your answer.
Or,
 - (b) Discuss how the Mississippi functions in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a symbol.
 - (c) Consider *The Great Gatsby* as a critique of the American 'dream'.
Or,
 - (d) Write a note on the character of Jay Gatsby.
 - (e) Write a note on the narrative technique of *The Grapes of Wrath*.
Or,
 - (f) Elucidate the symbols, both religious and biblical used in *The Grapes of Wrath*.
 - (g) Can *To Kill a Mocking Bird* be called a Bildungsroman? Give reasons for your answer.
Or,
 - (h) Comment on the title of the novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird*.
 - (i) Assess *The Colour Purple* from the feminist perspective.
Or,
 - (j) Consider *The Colour Purple* as an epistolary novel.

3. Answer briefly **any two** of the following from any one group of your choice: 5x2=10

GROUP 1

- (a) Comment on the role of Pap.
- (b) "...Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can't stand it." Explain.
- (c) Significance of one lie that Huck says to save Jim.

GROUP 2

(d) Setting of *The Great Gatsby*.

(e) "I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool."

(f) Nick as storyteller

GROUP 3

(g) Depiction of the Dust Bowl farmers

(h) The Joad family and their role

(i) "God, I'm talkin' like Casy. Comes of thinkin' about him so much. Seems like I can see him sometimes." Explain with reference to the context.

GROUP 4

(j) Tom Robinson's trial

(k) Description of Maycomb

(l) "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy . . . but sing their hearts out for us." Elucidate

GROUP 5

(m) The Olinka

(n) Celie's letters to God

(o) "Us sleep like sisters, me and Shug." Explain the relationship.

SECTION 3

4. Answer **any one** of the following: 10
- (a) Comment on the role of the 'ambitious guest' who shares the hearth with the family.
 - (b) How does Poe build up an atmosphere of horror in 'The Cask of Amontillado'?
 - (c) Comment on the ending of O. Henry's story 'The Cactus'.
 - (d) Did you find 'The Monkey's Paw' an appealing story? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (e) Discuss the appropriateness of the title of Kate Chopin's story 'Regret'.
 - (f) Consider the treatment of love in Willa Cather's story 'On the Gull's Road'.
5. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2=10
- (a) 'They had found the "herb, heart's-ease," in the bleakest spot of all New England.' Describe the location.
 - (b) What does 'Amontillado' refer to?
 - (c) 'They call it by this name--Ventomarme.' Explain.
 - (d) "'Well, it's just a bit of what you might call magic, perhaps.'" Explain with reference to the context.
 - (e) 'She had never been in love.' Give a short character sketch of the person referred to here.
 - (f) '...it curled and clung about my sleeve like a living thing set free.' What is being referred to here?

SECTION 4

6. Answer **any one** of the following: 10
- (a) Critically review Emily Dickinson's attitude to mortality in 'Death'.
- (b) Comment on the role of Whitman in Ginsberg's poem 'A Supermarket in California'.
- (c) Analyse and explain Robert Frost's poem 'Desert Places'.
7. Explain and annotate with reference to the context **any two** of the following: 5x2=10
- (a) "Daddy, I have had to kill you.
You died before I had time"
- (b) "What is it then between us?
What is the count of the scores or hundreds of years between us?"
- (c) "I am cold in this cold house this house
Whose washed echoes are tremulous down lost halls."
- (d) "My soul has grown deep like the rivers."
- (e) "you open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens
(touching skilfully, mysteriously) her first rose"

SECTION 5

8. (a) Write a note on the significance of the title of the play *The Glass Menagerie* or *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* 10

Or,

- (b) Comment on the central theme of *The Glass Menagerie* or *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* 10
9. Answer **any two** of the following: 5x2=10
- (a) Explain: "All vestige of gracious living! Gone completely!"
Or,
Explain: "Musical beds is the faculty sport around here."
- (b) What is 'peculiar' about Laura?
Or,
Why is Honey portrayed as 'sick'?
- (c) The image of Blue Roses and its significance.
Or,
The significance of Walpurgisnacht.