

COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION (MAIN)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper—I

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 200

Note : (1) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks for the questions.

(2) Attempt *five* questions in all.

(3) Question No. 1 is compulsory.

1. Write on any *ten* of the following in about 100 words each : 4×10=40
- (a) The role of art according to Keats
 - (b) T. S. Eliot's poetic style
 - (c) Dickens as a social writer
 - (d) Negative capability
 - (e) Victorian morality
 - (f) Wordsworth's reverence of nature
 - (g) Charles Lamb's prose works
 - (h) The theme of progress in Tennyson's poems
 - (i) Thomas Carlyle and his moral standpoint
 - (j) The Victorian novel
 - (k) Robert Browning's *Porphyria's Lover*
 - (l) The pre-Raphaelites
2. Write short notes on any *eight* of the following : 5×8=40
- (a) The 'pessimism' found in the Victorian Age
 - (b) William Hazlitt as a literary critic
 - (c) Fancy vs. Imagination as understood by the Romantics
 - (d) Shelley's use of poetry as a revolutionary force

- (e) The characteristics of Gothic fiction
- (f) Aspects of Hellenism found in Romanticism
- (g) The supernatural elements found in Coleridge's poetry
- (h) Robert Browning's use of the dramatic monologue
- (i) Mathew Arnold's touchstone method
- (j) Escapism and Romanticism

3. Answer any *five* of the following :

8×5=40

- (a) Critically comment on the French Revolution and its effect on the literary scene.
- (b) What are the key features found in John Keats' odes? Critically discuss the thematic and stylistic elements found in them.
- (c) "In the history of Victorian realism, Thackeray played a huge role in contributing to its development." Discuss.
- (d) "The relationship between men and women has been a key feature in the texts written by women during the Victorian period." In this regard, discuss this relationship as found in George Eliot's novels.
- (e) Why is there so much violence against women in Browning's poetry? What symbolic purpose might it serve?
- (f) "Criticism plays a key role in understanding the features that 'define' poetry." Critically assess Matthew Arnold's capacity as a literary critic and his contributions to the field of literary criticism.
- (g) "With some artists, art becomes an attempt to bring a cohesion of thought between life, nature, society through art." Discuss this with reference to Ruskin.

4. Answer any *four* of the following :

10×4=40

- (a) Discuss the significance of the visions and dreams as found in Romantic poetry with special reference to Coleridge's poems.
- (b) "Charles Dickens manages to capture brilliantly the challenges that accompany children in the new industrialized societies." Critically comment on his style of characterization of the child.

- (c) "John Keats is driven by an obsession with permanence as found in art." Discuss this relationship between death and art with reference to his poems.
- (d) "George Eliot is known to have aptly represented rural life in her novels." Discuss.
- (e) Why is Browning so interested in the Renaissance?

5. Answer any *four* of the following :

10×4=40

- (a) "Victorian poetry reflected the mood of progress as well as pessimism." Discuss.
- (b) "Wordsworth drew his inspiration primarily from nature." If this statement is true, how did nature sustain him with the inspiration through his poetic career?
- (c) "The Romantic period is known primarily for its poetic output. There was however much prose written during this period too." Critically comment on the prose found in the Romantic period.
- (d) Discuss the poetic contributions of Robert Browning.
- (e) "Shelley's poetry stems from a need for drastic changes." Critically discuss this statement.

6. Answer any *two* of the following :

20×2=40

- (a) "Nature provided for Wordsworth both companionship and a sense of peace. To him, nature became the answer to many of the issues that seem to plague the human condition." Highlight how Wordsworth seeks to draw the connection between man and nature and how spiritual maturity can be achieved through nature's 'teachings'.
- (b) "Dickens' characters derive their life from the fact that they do reveal a certain aspect of real human nature—its individuality." Critically discuss this statement's assertion.
- (c) "Coleridge is often described as a 'poet of the imagination'." What does this statement mean? What role does imagination play in Coleridge's work, both as a source and as a subject?

7. Answer any *two* of the following :

20×2=40

- (a) How does Shelley's treatment of nature differ from that of the earlier Romantic poets? What connections does he make between nature and art, and how does he illustrate these connections?
- (b) "When we look at Matthew Arnold's critical works, we notice a trend whereby he persistently denounces many issues that seem to plague the society of his time. These issues relate to the growing 'provincialism, utilitarian materialism and philistinism' of society." Discuss this statement with reference to his works.
- (c) "George Eliot's novels portray the changing social landscape whereby the middle class is seen as being on the rise." In this light, consider the factors that contribute to the rise of the characters in her novels such as the choice of vocation, the significance of money and the rise of protestant moral value system.

8. What are the factors that contributed to the rise of the novel as the primary source of literary consumption? How has the genre of the novel helped to give a 'voice' to the 'voiceless' women in this particular time period?

20+20=40

9. "With every age, there is a move forward from one idea to the next. Sometimes this movement involves the toppling down of convictions once deeply held. At other times, these old convictions and beliefs stand firm despite the onslaught of the 'new' wave of thought and progress. The Victorian period presented such a setting whereby contradictory ideas had to contend in the arena of claims to truth. This was an age of pessimism." Highlight the social, scientific, economic and spiritual changes that shook Victorian society with special reference to the writings of that period by Tennyson, Browning, Arnold, Dickens and Thackeray.

8+8+8+8+8=40

10. "The Romantic Movement was a reaction against the mechanization of life." Do you agree with this statement? Refer to the Romantic writers Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley and Keats to support or retaliate against this statement's assertion.

10+10+10+10=40
