

B.A. 2nd Semester (Honours) Examination, 2023 (CBCS)

Subject : English

Course : CC-IV

British Poetry, Drama (16th – 17th Centuries) & Rhetoric and Prosody

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words
as far as practicable.*

1. Answer *any ten* of the following questions:

2×10=20

- (a) "And summer's lease hath all too short a date." — What is "summer's lease"?
- (b) Bring out the significance of the following lines:
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.
- (c) "O, no! It is an ever-fixed mark," — What does the poet consider "an ever-fixed mark" and why?
- (d) Why do you think the poet says: "Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,/ But bears it out even to the edge of doom"?
- (e) "Let us possess one world, each hath one and is one." — What does the word "one" signify here?
- (f) "All honour's mimic; all wealth alchemy." — What does this expression mean?
- (g) "Two truths are told / As happy prologues to the swelling act / Of th' imperial theme." — What are the "two truths"?
- (h) "The raven himself is hoarse / That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan / Under my battlements." — Comment on the imagery used.
- (i) "Where we are / There's daggers in men's smiles" — Who are the "we" here? Elucidate the extract.
- (j) "Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck, / Till thou applaud the deed." — Who is referred to as "innocent chuck" and what is "the deed"?
- (k) "Under him my genius is rebuk'd, / As it is said Mark Antony's was by Caesar." — Who is referred to as "him"? Bring out the historical allusion of the comment.
- (l) "My hands are of your colour / But I shame to wear a heart so white." Who is the speaker? What does the speaker mean?

- (m) "What, all my pretty chickens and their dam / At one fell swoop." — Who is the speaker? What incident is referred to here?
- (n) Name and explain the figure(s) of speech in the following extract:
- (i) The curfew tolls the knell of parting day.
- Or,
- (ii) The child shows the man, as morning shows the day.
- (o) Name and explain the figure(s) of speech in the following extract:
- (i) Cowards die many times before their death.
- Or,
- (ii) The pen is mightier than the sword.

2. Answer *any four* of the following questions:

5×4=20

- (a) Elucidate briefly how hallucination works and acts upon Macbeth.
- (b) Whom does Malcolm refer to as "this dead butcher and his fiend-like queen"? Is Malcolm's assessment tenable? Give reasons for your answer.
- (c) Briefly comment on the atmosphere of darkness prevalent in *Macbeth*.
- (d) Comment on the movement from the past through the present into the future in "The Good Morrow".
- (e) "And every fair from fair sometime declines, / By chance, or nature's changing course untrimmed." Comment on the use of the word "fair" in the passage. What are "chance" and "nature's changing course"?
- (f) Scan the following passage:
- But at my back I always hear
Time's winged chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all before us lie
Deserts of vast eternity.

3. Answer *any two* of the following questions:

10×2=20

- (a) Critically examine the character of Viola in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.
- (b) Macbeth fights a lost battle against forces beyond his control. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
- (c) Give a critical estimate of the elements of tragedy that you find in Marlowe's *Edward II*.
- (d) Consider Donne's "The Sun Rising" as a specimen of metaphysical love poetry.