



COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY

B.A. General Part-I Examinations, 2017

ENGLISH-GENERAL

PAPER-ENGG-I

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

1. Write an essay on any **one** from the following: 25×1 = 25

- (a) Literature and Society
- (b) Communal Harmony
- (c) Role of Women in Indian Films
- (d) Artist's Role in Society.

2. Write a précis on the following passage and add a suitable title: 15

Shelly in his poem *Ode to the West Wind* addresses west wind, the breath of autumn's being, as both the destroyer and the preserver. Thus, in this essay I would like to highlight both the aspects of autumn: as destroyer as well as a preserver.

Autumn in English literature has been referred to and discussed both as a destroyer and as a preserver. Destroyer because it represents the fall and end of the calendar year; and preserver as it marks the harvest, fruitfulness and also a new beginning.

In Greek mythology, autumn began when Persephone was abducted by Hades to be the Queen of the Under-world. In distress Persephone's mother,

Demeter (the goddess of the harvest), caused all the crops on Earth to die until her daughter was allowed to return, marking spring. In literature, autumn may refer to ripeness, change, maturity, beauty, sadness or preparing for an end or decline.

Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* takes place during autumn as the leaves begin to change colour and fall. In the book, the town experiences grief after the death of Ichabod Crain and the chilly autumn progresses with fear of death and the Headless Horseman. John Keats personifies the season in the poem to *Autumn*. In the ode, Keats states that the season is a labourer that works with the maturing sun to bring bountiful harvests. As the season progresses, autumn acts as a gleaner that decomposes summer flowers and plants left in the fields.

Autumn reminds us of the impermanence of everything. We experience the budding of life in spring and the profusions of summer. Now the leaves fall and bare branches remind us of the fleeting nature of all things. Jewish rabbi and writer Harold Kushner in *The Lord Is My Shepherd* suggests that when we contemplate fall's changes, we grow more appreciative of all the beauties that surround us.

The poet Wallace Stevens once wrote, "Death is the mother of beauty" in his *Sunday Morning*. What the poet means by these words is that we cherish the beauty of a sunrise, of a New England autumn, of a relationship, of a child's hug, precisely because those things will not be around forever and neither will we be around to enjoy them.

3. Edit the following passage with proper style sheet and proof reading:

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Whenever i comeback for universities to home i see my parents quarling by eachother.



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Group-I

1. Answer any *two* questions from the following: 13×2 = 26
- (a) How far does Shakespeare unlock his heart in the sonnets?
 - (b) Discuss Donne as a metaphysical poet with reference to the poems on the syllabus.
 - (c) Attempt a critical appreciation of "Ode to the West Wind" as a Romantic poem.
 - (d) What Romantic features of Wordsworth's poetry can we see in the "Lucy Poems?"

Group-II

Answer any *three* questions from the following. 3×3 = 9

2. "Nor gates of steel so strong, but time decays".
— Who is the poet? Explain the imagery contained in this statement.

3. Mark the mood of despondency in Sonnet no. 29.
4. "Snorted we in seven sleepers' Den". — Who is the poet? Why does he wonder thus?
5. "A lady of my own". — Who claims whom as "a lady of my own" and why?
6. Comment on Shelley's description of the West Wind in terms of its effects on the land.
7. Why cannot Shelley define the exact nature of the Skylark?

Group-III

8. Critically appreciate the following text:

15

I walked on the banks of the Tincan Banana dog and,

Sat down under the huge shed of a Southern

Pacific locomotive, to look at the sunset over the

Box house hills and cry.

Jack Kerouac sat beside me on a bastard rusty iron

Poll, Companion, we thought the same thoughts of

The soul, bleak and blue, and sad-eyed, surrounded

By the gnarled steel roots of trees of Machinery.



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Group-I

Answer any *one* question from the following.

12×1 = 12

1. Discuss how does Lamb intermingle tears and smiles in his essays prescribed for you.
2. Why does Lamb rank so high as a personal essayist? Answer with reference to the texts on your syllabus.

Group-II

Answer any *two* questions from the following.

12×2 = 24

3. Comment on Virginia Woolf's interior monologue in her short story *The Duchess and the Jeweller*.
4. Analyse the relationship between Edith and Mrs. Dyke.
5. Write a note on the author's narrative skill in *The Vertical Ladder*.

6. Write a note on the imagery in *A Dream of Winter*.

Group-III

Answer all questions.

7×2 = 14

7. (a) What is the relation between rhythm and content?

OR

- (b) Explain – “There remains a conflict between our actual experience of art and our thought about that experience”.

8. (a) How according to Symonds do acquired faculties and habit find expression in style?

OR

- (b) Why does Symonds think that when we speak of style we have to take into account those qualities of national character embedded in national speech?