

MA (Previous) Examination, 2017
English Literature
Paper-IV
(Bacon to Eliot)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

Attempt any five questions, selecting at least one question from each unit. Answer question no 2 to 10 in maximum 500 words each.

Unit-I

1. Explain with reference to the context any four of the following extracts in about 125-150 words each:

(a) ...for the helmet was nine times too large for the head, which appeared situated far in the hinder part, even like the lady in a lobster, or like a mouse under a canopy of state, or like a shrivelled bean within the pent-house of a modern periwig, and the voice was suited to the visage, sounding weak and remote.

(b) Perhaps the best cure for the fear of death is to reflect that life has a beginning as well as an end. There was time when we were not: this gives us no concern- why, then should it trouble us that a time will come when we shall cease to be?

(c) The virtue of prosperity, is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude; which in morals is the more heroical virtue.

(d) Sunday clears away the rust of the whole week, not only as it refreshes in their minds the notions of religion, but as it puts both the sexes upon appearing in their most agreeable forms, and excreting all such qualities as are apt to give them a figure in the eye of the village.

(e) Certainly wife and children are a kind of discipline of humanity; and single men though they may be many times more charitable, because their means are less exhaust, yet on the other side, they are more cruel and hardhearted (good to make severe inquisitors), because their tenderness is not so oft called upon.

(f) This malignant liquor was compounded by the engineer who invented it, of two ingredients, which are gall and copperas, by its bitterness and venom to suit in some degree, as well as to foment, the genius of combatants.

(g) ...he at last happened to alight upon one of the outward walls of the spider's citadel, which yielding to the unequal weight, sunk down to the very foundation. Thrice he endeavoured to force his passage, and thrice the centre shook.

Unit-II

2. Trace Bacon's thoughts in his essay 'Of Truth'.
3. Comment on the thoughts expressed by Addison in his essay 'The Tombs in Westminster Abbey'.
4. How does the mock-epic element help Swift in his intended purpose in 'The Battle of the Books'?

Unit-III

5. Comment critically on Hazlitt's prose style with special reference to the essays prescribed.
6. Evaluate Ruskin as a Social Satirist.
7. The most memorable point made by JS Mill in 'On Liberty' is that 'over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign'. Discuss with apt illustration.

Unit-IV

8. 'Life for Moll is a series of traps'. Elucidate.
9. In Mansfield Park Jane Austen's chief concern is with Fanny's happiness and towards this all the other characters are made to work unconsciously. Comment on the suitability of this statement.
10. 'Vicar of Wakefield is a novel full of pathos and sentiment.' Examine the view.

Unit-V

11. Attempt a character portrayal of Becky Sharp.
 12. The theme of Wuthering Heights is the co-existence of good and evil. Examine the view critically. Does this view convey a moral?
 13. Analyse critically the statement that 'the process of spiritual degeneration and purification' is central to 'Middlemarch'
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