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1 SEM FYUGP ENGC1

2024

(December)

ENGLISH

(Core)

Paper : ENGC1

(British Poetry and Drama : 14th to 17th Century)

Full Marks : 60 (80 for 2023 Batch)

Time : 2 hours (3 hours for 2023 Batch)

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

(Social and Literary History)

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

(a) Examine how the religious and social concerns of the Age of Chaucer shaped the literature and cultural practices of the period.

(b) Discuss Chaucer's contribution to the development of the English language and literature during his time.

- (c) Write a note on the architecture and setting of the public and private theatres and its influence on the performance and reception of plays.
- (d) Analyse the influence of classical antiquity on the literature and culture of the Renaissance period with a focus on one or two key figures or works.
- (e) Assess the role of the University Wits in challenging the conventions of morality plays and medieval theatre.

UNIT—II

(Poetry)

2. Answer any one of the following :

10

- (a) Critically comment on how dreams are used to develop themes of knowledge, power and caution in Chaucer's *The Nun's Priest's Tale*.
- (b) Discuss the structure of *The Nun's Priest's Tale*, including its use of rhyme and metre. How does Chaucer's poetic style enhance the story-telling?
- (c) Some scholars suggest that Shakespeare's sonnets can be read as a narrative sequence, while others argue they are standalone poems. Discuss.

- (d) *The Sunne Rising* reflects Donne's characteristic use of hyperbole and wit. Critically evaluate the use of exaggeration and clever argument in the poem to communicate the speaker's emotions.
- (e) Show how the sonnets prescribed for your study deal with the passage of time and its impact on emotional life, particularly with regard to memory and love.

3. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) Outline the use of fable tradition in *The Nun's Priest's Tale*.
- (b) How does *The Nun's Priest's Tale* reflect the moral values and beliefs of Chaucer's time?
- (c) What distinguishes Metaphysical poetry from the earlier Elizabethan poetic tradition?
- (d) Write, in brief, how Shakespeare addresses the inevitability of aging and the passage of time.

UNIT—III

(Renaissance/Elizabethan Drama)

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

- (a) The character of Faustus in *Doctor Faustus* represents the archetypal Renaissance man. Examine how Faustus' pursuit of knowledge and power reflects Renaissance ideals and their potential pitfalls.
- (b) In *Doctor Faustus*, Marlowe uses the theme of damnation to explore the limits of human free will. Discuss.
- (c) Examine the portrayal of the Good and Evil Angels in illustrating the theme of moral conflict in the play.

5. Answer any *one* of the following : 5

- (a) How does Marlowe portray Mephistopheles as more than just an evil force?
- (b) Comment on Faustus' struggles with the idea of repentance throughout the play.
- (c) Explain how Marlowe uses the character of Faustus to explore the concept of hubris.

UNIT—IV

(Shakespearean Drama)

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

(a) "Macbeth is worked upon by forces of evil, yields to temptation in spite of all that his conscience can do to stop him... and is brought to retribution by death." Substantiate.

(b) Analyse how guilt haunts both Macbeth and lady Macbeth and how it affects their actions and mental states as the play progresses.

(c) Shakespeare explores the dynamics of gender and power through the stage conventions of cross-dressing in *Twelfth Night*. Discuss.

(d) Assess the dramatic significance of the two sub-plots of *Twelfth Night*.

7 Answer any *two* of the following : 5×2=10

(a) Write, in brief, how the witches play a significant role in Macbeth's fate.

(b) Briefly analyse the use of blood imagery to convey guilt in the play, *Macbeth*.

- (c) Comment on the concept of fate versus free will in *Macbeth*.
- (d) Briefly discuss how Shakespeare uses mistaken identity to create humour and confusion in the play, *Twelfth Night*.
- (e) Explore the complexities of romantic love through characters like Orsino, Olivia and Viola in *Twelfth Night*.
- (f) How does the conclusion of the play resolve the chaos created by disguise and mistaken identity?

(Additional 20 marks for 2023 Batch)

8. Answer any *two* of the following : $10 \times 2 = 20$

- (a) Write a critical note on the impact of the printing press on the dissemination of knowledge, including literature during the 15th century.
- (b) Write a critical note on the development of the English language in the 15th to the 17th century through a study of the use of language in the field of poetry.

(7)

- (c) Critically evaluate the opening scene of *Doctor Faustus*.
- (d) In what ways does Shakespeare Subvert the conventions of courtly love in *Twelfth Night*? Explain with examples.
