2025

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG0400404

Jawaharlal Nehru College Library * Estd - 1984 * Boko Kamrup

(British Poetry : Victorian to Postmodern)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) Name the region the speaker refers to as "the old man-killing parishes".

(b) Which object symbolizes the unspoken connection between the speaker and her mistress in Duffy's poem?

(c) What does the speaker sign in the church during his visit?

(d) What natural imagery does the speaker use to describe youth and vitality in the opening stanza of *Sailing to Byzantium*?

(e) What colour does Prufrock mention in relation to the fog or smoke in Eliot's poem?

(f) According to the speaker, who would know "If anything might rouse him (the dead soldier) now"?

(g) What time of day is described at the beginning of *The Thought-Fox*?

(h) Who does the speaker want to learn from in Byzantium in Yeats' poem?

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions very briefly : 2×6=12

(a) How does the setting contrast the melancholy mood in *Dover Beach*?

(b) What kind of transformation or 'resurrection' does the speaker long for in *A Better Resurrection*?

(c) How does Ulysses describe old age in Tennyson's poem?

(d) Why is the Duke dissatisfied with the Duchess's behaviour in *My Last Duchess*?

(e) What does the repeated phrase "Do I dare" suggest about Prufrock in Eliot's poem?

(f) Why does the speaker say, "That is no country for old men" in *Sailing to Byzantium*?

(g) What is the speaker's initial mindset as he enters the church at the beginning of *Church Going*?

(h) What is the nature of the fox's movements in *The Thought-Fox*?

(i) What does the maid imagine her mistress thinking about as she sits in the Yellow Room and why?

(j) What prompts the speaker's reflection in *Futility*?

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) Elaborate on the element of pathos in Victorian poetry with reference to some of the poems you have read.

(b) "The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled."
What do you understand by the term 'Sea of Faith', and what is Arnold's solution to the crisis of faith in the society of his times? Elucidate.

(c) Identify some key features of Wilfred Owen's poetry that addresses the theme of war, using examples from his poems.

(d) Describe briefly the various kinds of experimentation with regard to style and form in modern poetry.

(e) Discuss the representation of gender in 19th and 20th Century British poetry with reference to any one of the prescribed poems in the paper.

(f) Elaborate on the representation of the Tollund Man as a bog body in Heaney's poem.

(g) Identify some key aspects or dimensions or features of social critique in Victorian literature, with respect to the poems you have read.

(h) Discuss briefly T. S. Eliot's Prufrock as the representative of a modern man.

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) From your reading of the relationship between the Duke and the Duchess in Browning's poem, *My Last Duchess*, analyze the status of women in Victorian society.

(b) Discuss the key themes in Christina Rossetti's poem, *A Better Resurrection* with special emphasis on its imagery and symbolism.

(c) Examine critically how W. B. Yeats employs Byzantium as a symbol of permanence in *Sailing to Byzantium.*

(d) Show, through a reading of the prescribed texts, how modern poets have depicted the city in the modern age.

(e) Analyze the relevance of the title, *Church Going* as a reflection on ideas such as faith, modernity, the impact of war and the alienation and scepticism of the modern individual through a reading of Larkin's poem.

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