

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2009
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : FICTION - I
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION - A

- I. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 100 words each: (4 x 5 =20)**
- Comment on the Exposition in “Pride and Prejudice”.
 - Explain first person point of view with reference to Dicken’s “Great Expectations”.
 - Describe the character of Mrs. Bennet in “Pride and Prejudice”.
 - What is the symbolic significance of ‘land’ in Tolstoy’s short story?
 - How does Dickens “Great Expectations” illustrate the socio-cultural milieu of England in the eighteenth century?

SECTION - B

- II. Answer the following in about 500 words each: (3 x 20 = 60)**

1. a. “As in all Jane Austen’s novels, the main business of “Pride and Prejudice” is the disposal of young women in marriage”- Discuss.

OR

- b. Comment on the character of Elizabeth, “a sensible intelligent young woman” as described by the narrator in “Pride and Prejudice”.

2. a. Identify ‘flat’ and ‘round’ characters in ‘Great Expectations’.

OR

- b. How does Dickens present the transformation of Pip into a gentleman in ‘Great Expectations’?

3. a. Explain the main theme in Guy de Maupassant’s ‘The Charm Dispelled’.

OR

- b. How does Tolstoy satirize human greed in the story, ‘How much Land Does a Man Need’?

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- III. Attempt an analysis of any ONE of the following with reference to theme, characterisation, and technique. (1 x 20 = 20)**

- A. If Elizabeth, when Mr. Darcy gave her the letter, did not expect it to contain a renewal of his offers, she had formed no expectation at all of its contents. But such as they were, it may be well supposed how eagerly she went through them, and what a contrariety of emotion they excited. Her feelings as she read were scarcely to be defined. With amazement did she first understand that he believed any apology to be in his power; and steadfastly was she persuaded that he could have no explanation to give, which a just sense of shame would not conceal. With a strong prejudice against every thing he might say, she began his account of what had happened at Netherfield. She read, with an eagerness which hardly left her power of comprehension, and from impatience of knowing what the next sentence might bring, was incapable of attending to the sense of the one before her eyes. His belief of her sister's insensibility, she instantly resolved to be false, and his account of the real, the worst objections to the match, made her too angry to have any wish of doing him justice. He expressed no regret for what he had done which satisfied her; his style was not penitent, but haughty. It was all pride and insolence.
- B. It was not in the first few moments that I saw all these things, though I saw more of them in the first moments than might be supposed. But, I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its lustre, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to see some ghastly waxwork at the Fair, representing I know not what impossible personage lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress, that had been dug out of a vault under the church pavement. Now, waxwork and skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at me. I should have cried out, if I could. "Who is it?" said the lady at the table. "Pip, ma'am."
- "Pip?"

"Mr. Pumblechook's boy, ma'am. Come - to play."

"Come nearer; let me look at you. Come close."

It was when I stood before her, avoiding her eyes, that I took note of the surrounding objects in detail, and saw that her watch had stopped at twenty minutes to nine, and that a clock in the room had stopped at twenty minutes to nine. "Look at me," said Miss Havisham. "You are not afraid of a woman who has never seen the sun since you were born?" "I regret to state that I was not afraid of telling the enormous lie comprehended in the answer "No."
