

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2019
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR CORE
PAPER : BRITISH LITERATURE
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any three of the following in not more than 350 words. (3x15 = 45)

1. Examine *The Rape of the Lock* as a mock heroic poem.
2. D.H. Lawrence's "Snake" dramatises the conflict between the human world and the natural world. Justify.
3. Write an essay on Bacon's prose style as demonstrated in the essay "Of Friendship."
4. Analyse how Hopkins' choice of diction and imagery conveys his vision of divine splendour.
5. Consider "Upon Westminster Bridge" as an embodiment of the spirit of Romanticism.

SECTION B

II. Answer any two of the following in not more than 800 words each. (2x20 = 40)

6. Explain how, in Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach*, the form of the novel enhances its portrayal of the complex nature of human interactions and relationships.
7. Consider Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* as a novel that depicts the maturation of its strong-willed female protagonist while adopting a critical perspective of the Victorian English society.
8. Attempt an analysis of the narrative techniques in Julian Barnes' *The Sense of an Ending* and how they influence the readers' understanding of the central concerns of the novel.
9. Examine the absurdist elements in Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party*.

SECTION C

III. Attempt a critical analysis of the following extract. (1x15 =15)

10. "How strange a checquer work of Providence is the life of man! and by what secret different springs are the affections hurry'd about, as differing circumstances present! Today we love what tomorrow we hate; today we seek what tomorrow we shun; today we desire what tomorrow we fear; nay even tremble at the apprehensions of; this was exemplify'd in me at this time in the most lively manner imaginable; for I whose only affliction was, that I seem'd banish'd from human society . . . I say, that I should now tremble at the very apprehensions of seeing a man, and was ready to sink into the ground at but the shadow, or silent appearance of a man's having set his foot in the island.

Such is the uneven state of human life: And it afforded me a great many curious speculations afterwards . . . I considered that this was the station of life, the infinitely wise and good Providence of God had determined for me, that as I could not foresee what the ends of divine wisdom might be in all this, so I was not to dispute his sovereignty, who, as I was his creature, had an undoubted right by creation to govern and dispose of me absolutely as he thought fit; and who, as I was a creature who offended him, had likewise a judicial right to condemn me to what punishment he thought fit; and that it was my part to submit to bear his indignation, because I had sinn'd against him.

I then reflected, that God, who was not only righteous but omnipotent, as he had thought fit thus to punish and afflict me, so he was able to deliver me; that if he did not think fit to do it, 'twas my unquestion'd duty to resign my self absolutely and entirely to his will; and on the other hand, it was my duty also to hope in him, pray to him, and quietly to attend the dictates and directions of his daily Providence.
