

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2022
BRANCH XII - ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE: MAJOR CORE
PAPER: POETRY

TIME: 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION – A

I. Answer any three of the following questions in about 150 words each.
(3x10=30 marks)

1. What are the characteristics of a sonnet? List out the different types of sonnets.
2. Comment on the features of a lyric poem with reference to Robert Burns' poem.
3. Examine "My Last Duchess" as a dramatic monologue.
4. Identify the features of an Ode in Keats's "Ode to the Nightingale".
5. Discuss Gray's poem as an Elegy.

SECTION – B

II. Analyse the poetic devices in any two of the given extracts in about 75 words.
(2x5=10 marks)

6. Already I am no longer looked at with lechery or love.
My daughters and sons have put me away with marbles and dolls,
Are gone from the house.
My husband and lovers are pleasant or somewhat polite
And night is night.

It is a real chill out,
The genuine thing.
I am not deceived, I do not think it is still summer
Because sun stays and birds continue to sing.

It is summer-gone that I see, it is summer-gone.
The sweet flowers indrying and dying down,
The grasses forgetting their blaze and consenting to brown.

7. Did I escape, I wonder?
My mind winds to you
Old barnacled umbilicus, Atlantic cable,
Keeping itself, it seems, in a state of miraculous
repair.

In any case, you are always there,
 Tremulous breath at the end of my line,
 Curve of water upleaping
 To my water rod, dazzling and grateful,
 Touching and sucking.
 I didn't call you.
 I didn't call you at all.
 Nevertheless, nevertheless
 You steamed to me over the sea,
 Fat and red, a placenta

Paralyzing the kicking lovers.

8. Bigger than earth, certainly,
 higher than the sky,
 more unfathomable than the waters
 is this love for this man

of the mountain slopes
 where bees make rich honey
 from the flowers of the kurinci
 that has such black stalks.

9. There's a certain Slant of light,
 Winter Afternoons –
 That oppresses, like the Heft
 Of Cathedral Tunes –

Heavenly Hurt, it gives us –
 We can find no scar,
 But internal difference –
 Where the Meanings, are –

None may teach it – Any –
 'Tis the seal Despair –
 An imperial affliction
 Sent us of the Air –

When it comes, the Landscape listens –
 Shadows – hold their breath –
 When it goes, 'tis like the Distance
 On the look of Death –

SECTION – C

III. Answer any four of the following in about 300 words each. (4x15=60 marks)

10. Comment on the symbolism of the tools in the poem “Digging”.
11. How does Donne explore the themes of separation and union in the poem “A Valediction: Of Weeping”?
12. Attempt a critical appreciation of “Standing Female Nude”.
13. Analyse Walcott’s “A Far Cry from Africa” as a poem presenting a postcolonial dilemma.
14. How does Jackie Kay explore the idea of identity and belonging in “In My Country”?
15. Examine “The Red Wheelbarrow” as an example of Imagist poetry.
