

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019–2020 and thereafter)

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR CORE
SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/MC/LC34
PAPER : LITERARY CRITICISM - I
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any three questions in about 400 words each. (3x15=45)

1. Write a short note on Arnold's touchstone method.
2. Explain the key principles and concepts associated with any two schools of literary theory identified by M. H. Abrams.
3. Write a short note on the nature of fancy.
4. What are the key elements of a tragedy, as described by Aristotle in the *Poetics*?
5. Johnson criticises the portrayal of love in the drama of his time. How does he contrast Shakespeare's treatment of love with that of other dramatists?

SECTION B

II. Answer any two questions in about 500 words each. (2x20=40)

6. In *An Apology for Poetry*, how does Sir Philip Sidney define a poet?
7. In "Tradition and the Individual Talent," Eliot discusses the concept of depersonalisation. What does he mean by this term, and how does it relate to the idea of tradition in literature?
8. Aristotle emphasises the importance of a well-structured plot in a tragedy. Analyse the plot of *Oedipus Rex* and its adherence to Aristotle's principles. How does the play's plot contribute to the production of the tragic effect?
9. In "Ion", Socrates raises questions about whether poets are truly experts in their art or whether they are merely divinely inspired. Discuss the arguments presented and their implications for understanding the nature of artistic expertise.

SECTION C

III. Analyse any one of the passages following the instructions given. (1x15=15)

10. Analyse the following passage using Aristotle's discussion of tragedy.

Oedipus: I urge other duties on you. Bury your sister who lies inside the house and perform the rites for her. I must go from here to the hill where my parents tried to kill me. Nothing can kill me now. I would not have been saved from death, unless it were for some strange destiny. Let

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my destiny go where it will. As for my children - Creon, do not worry about my two sons. They are men and can take care of themselves. But I beg you, look after my poor unhappy daughters. Let me touch them and weep with them.

[Enter Antigone and Ismene, Oedipus' two daughters, crying]

Oh my lord! Is it my daughters I hear sobbing? My two darlings. Come to these hands of mine, your brother's hands. Creon has had pity and has sent me what I loved most!

Creon: I brought them to you because I know how you love them.

Oedipus: Bless you for it. O children, I weep for you - I cannot see your faces - I weep when I think of the bitterness there will be in your lives. When you're ready for marriage, who'll take the child of such infamy? Such insults you will hear. Creon, since you are the only father left for these two girls, do not allow them to wander like beggars, poor and husbandless.

Creon: Come along. Soon you will leave the city, but let the children stay.

Oedipus: Do not take them from me!

Creon: Do not ask to have everything your way. Your time for giving orders has passed.

11. Analyse the following passage using any critical concept prescribed for study.

The Chimney Sweeper: A little black thing among the snow - William Blake

A little black thing among the snow,
Crying "weep! 'weep!" in notes of woe!
"Where are thy father and mother? say?"
"They are both gone up to the church to pray.

Because I was happy upon the heath,
And smil'd among the winter's snow,
They clothed me in the clothes of death,
And taught me to sing the notes of woe.

And because I am happy and dance and sing,
They think they have done me no injury,
And are gone to praise God and his Priest and King,
Who make up a heaven of our misery."
