

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/PC/BL24

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2007

BRANCH VII – ENGLISH

SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE

PAPER : BRITISH LITERATURE-II

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

I. Critically analyze FOUR passages choosing not more than two from each section: (4x5=20)

SECTION – A

- a) With life and nature, purifying thus
The elements of feeling and of thought,
And sanctifying by such discipline,
Both pain and fear, until we recognize
A grandeur in the beatings of the heart.
- b) But soon with altered voice, said she -
“Off, wandering mother! Peak and fine!
I have power to bid thee flee”.
- c) We look before and after,
And pine for what is not:
Our sincerest laughter
With some pain is fraught;
Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought.
- d) Beauty is truth, truth beauty. That is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

SECTION – B

- e) This world’s no blot for us,
Nor blank – it means intensely and means good.
To find its meaning is my meat and drink.
- f) And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight
Where ignorant armies clash by night.
- g) We only toil, who are the first of things,
And make perpetual moan,
Still from one sorrow to another thrown:
- h) But Gertrude, Lily, and Luther, are two of a town,
Christ’s Lily and beast of the waste wood:
From life’s dawn it is drawn down,
Abel is Cain’s brother and breasts they have sucked the same.

II Answer any FOUR in 500 words each: (4x10=40)

- a) How does Henchard bring about his own downfall. Examine.
- b) How does Wordsworth describe the “fair seed time” of his soul in ‘The Prelude’ Book I?
- c) Give a critical estimate of Arnold’s contribution to literary criticism with reference to his essay “The Study of Poetry”.
- d) Point out the qualities in Lamb’s essays that make him “the prince of English essayists”?
- e) “Shelley’s odes express perfectly the aims and views of the Romantic period”. Substantiate.
- f) The subject matter of “Emma” is marriage. Give reasons in support of or against this statement.

III Answer any TWO in 1000 words each: (2x20=40)

- a) What insights do you get into Browning’s philosophy of life and purpose of art from a study of his poetry?
- b) Critically examine Dickens’s “Great Expectations” as a “bildungsroman” tracing the growth and development of the central character, Pip.
- c) Examine Keats’s odes as an expression of the “mutability of life as contrasted with the immortality of the principle of beauty as expressed in art”.
- d) Consider Eliot’s “The Mill on the Floss” as a feminist novel.
