West Bengal State University B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011 PART-III

ENGLISH — Honours

Paper-V

Duration: 4 Hours Full Marks: 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

SECTION - 1

1. Answer any four of the following:

 $4 \times 5 = 20$

- a) What does Wordsworth mean by "emotions recollected in tranquility"? Give two examples from his poems.
- b) Give a brief critical estimate of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.
- c) Why is Victorian poetry called a 'criticism of life'? Illustrate your answer with two suitable examples.
- d) Why is pre-Raphaelite poetry so named? Mention at least three features of such poetry.
- e) Enumerate three experimental features of modern poetry.
- f) Name at least *two* anti-war poets of the First World War and mention some features of their works.

SECTION - 2

2. Answer any one of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

a) Would you consider *Tintern Abbey* as statement of Wordsworth's poetic faith? Give reasons for your answer.

b) Critically comment on the images used by Coleridge in Kubla Khan.

OR

Trace the medieval elements used in *Christabel* Bk I and comment on the treatment of those.

- c) Show with special reference to any *one* of the prescribed odes by John Keats, how the theme of "the painful contrast of flux and stability" is treated.
- 3. Answer any two of the following questions:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

- a) "A violet by a mossy stone": Who is described here? What other images does Wordsworth use in the poem for the same purpose?
- b) " ... Round the decay

Of that colossal wreck, ... "

Comment on the description of this 'colossal wreck'.

c) "Like a cloud of fire;

The blue deep thou wingest,"

Explain the image used in these lines.

OR

In what context does Shelley refer to some fierce Maenad?

d) 'When I have fears that I may cease to be'

What are the fears that the poet is referring to?

SECTION - 3

4. Answer any one of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

a) 'I am half sick of shadows', said

The Lady of Shalott

Critically analyse the poem The Lady of Shalott in the light of the above comment.

b) "The dramatic monologues of Browning are brilliant soul studies."

Consider Andrea in Andrea Del Sarto in the light of this comment.

OR

Consider Fra Lippo Lippi as a criticism of the "distorting pressure of piety upon art".

c) Consider the role of melancholy in Arnold's poetry with special reference to Dover Beach.

OR

Show, how the sense of alienation and isolation is expressed in Arnold's *To Marguerite*.

5. Answer any two of the following:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

- a) "To follow knowledge like a sinking star" Critically comment on the significance of the comparison.
- b) "The sea of faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore"

Critically comment on the given extract.

c) "What's this, Aurora Leigh,

You write so of the poets, and not laugh?"

Explain the significance of the above lines.

d) Explain the following:

"He learns the look of things, and none the less

For admonition from the hunger-pinch"

OR

E

"God, I conclude, compensates, punishes".

SECTION - 4

6. Answer any *one* of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

- a) Discuss Yeats' Sailing to Byzantium as a record of the poet's journey from "the sensual to the spiritual world".
- b) How does T. S. Eliot present modern life in The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock?

OR

In the light of the title, comment on the theme of T. S. Eliot's poem *The Journey of the Magi*.

c) Critically comment on the use of animal-motif in Ted Hughes' The Thought Fox.

7. Answer any three of the following:

 $3 \times 5 = 15$

- a) "Dulce et decorum est/Pro patria mori" Why is it called 'the old lie'?
- b) "Though they go mad they shall be sane,

Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again".

Explain.

- c) "Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;" Describe the context and the attitude of the speaker in this line.
- d) "... for whom was built

this special shell"

What is referred to here as "special shell" and why?

e) "The coarse boot nestled on the lug." Explain the significance of the expression.

SECTION - 5

8. Answer any *five* of the following:

 $5 \times 3 = 15$

- a) "Such thoughts to Lucy I will give." Who says this? What 'thoughts' are referred to here?
- b) What is a dulcimer? Who was playing on the dulcimer and what?

OR

"Jesu Maria shield her well," — Who is to be shielded and why?

- c) What does 'Bacchus and his pards' refer to?
- d) What is the importance of Camelot in *The Lady of Shalott*?
- e) Why is Byzantium called a 'holy city'?
- f) How does Eliot describe the 'yellow fog' in The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock?

OR

"I should be glad of another death"

What is the 'death' that the poet speaks of and why should he be glad 'of another death'?

- g) "I'll dig with it" What does the speaker mean by 'it'? Why and what does he want to dig?
- h) What does 'Five-Nines' refer to in Owen's poem?

West Bengal State University BA./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011

PART-III ENGLISH — Honours PAPER-VI

Duration: 4 Hours Maximum Marks: 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

SECTION - 1

1. Answer briefly any four of the following questions :

- $4 \times 5 = 20$
- a) Define the term 'Epic Theatre'. Give two examples of such plays.
- b) Give two reasons for the development of poetic drama in twentieth century England.
- c) By referring to two post-war plays discuss any two features of such plays.
- d) Define a 'well-made play'. Identify *two* major innovations (upon the well-made play) in theatrical production in post 1950 British drama.
- e) What do you understand by the term 'Drama of the Absurd' ? Substantiate your answer with two suitable examples.
- f) Differentiate between a radio play and a stage play.

SECTION - 2

2. Answer any two of the following questions:

- $2 \times 15 = 30$
- a) Following Ibsen, Shaw was projecting the 'Women Question' in his play Candida.
 - Elucidate the above statement with reference to the play Candida.
- b) Critically analyse the character of Marchbanks with suitable reference to the play.
- c) How does Barbara rebel against traditional feminine roles in Major Barbara.
- d) "There is bad blood on your hands; and nothing but good blood can cleanse them." Name the speaker and discuss how the speaker changes this opinion in the latter half of the play.
- e) Analyse Riders to the Sea as a one-act play.
- f) Examine the roles of Cathleen and Nora in the play Riders to the Sea.
- g) Explain the significance of the title of John Synge's play *The Playboy of the Western World*.
- h) How does Synge blend Irish myth with the reality of life in the play *The Playboy of the Western World?* Illustrate with suitable examples from the text.
- i) Discuss with close reference to the play Pinter's *The Caretaker* as a tragicomedy.
- j) Comment on the element of violence as found in Pinter's play *The Caretaker*.
- 3. Answer any six of the following questions taking three each from any two Groups:

 $6 \times 5 = 30$

- a) "I'm not afraid of you: it's you who are afraid of me." Explain.
- b) Who is the Reverend Alexander Mill?
- c) "I'm sorry, James, to ave to make a complaint to you. I don't want to do it; but I feel I oughter, as a matter o right and dooty." Comment on the significance of the above speech and name the speaker.
- d) What is referred to as Prossy's complaint in the play Candida?

- e) "You see, Stephen, your father must be fabulously wealthy, because there is always a war going on somewhere." Explain.
- f) Who is Rummy Mitchens?
- g) "It's your soul that's hunting you, Bill and not me." Who is the speaker and what is the significance of the line?
- h) Who says "come, come, my daughter! don't make too much of your little tinpot tragedy"? What does the comment reveal about the attitude of the speaker towards the listener?

GROUP - 3

- i) Why does Cathleen do this; "stops her wheel with a sudden movement and leans out to listen" at the beginning of the play? What does her act signify?
- j) "Then Bartley came along and he riding on the red mare with the gray pony behind him [She puts up her heads, as if to hide something from her eyes]"

 Who has seen this vision? Explain the significance of "red mare with the gray pony".
- k) Comment on the significance of the spinning wheel in the play *The Riders to the Sea*.
- 1) Who is the young priest and what is Maurya's attitude towards him?

- m) "I never used weapons. I've no license, and I'm a law-fearing man." Explain the irony of this statement.
- n) Who is Widow Quin?
- o) "Don't strike me. I killed my poor father." Identify the speaker, the context and the significance of this confession.
- p) "I've lost the only playboy of the western world." Who says this and why?

- q) Who is Bernard Jenkins?
- r) Why is 'Sidcup' mentioned in the play?
- s) Who is Mick?
- t) Explain why Aston does not say anything at the end of the play.

SECTION - 3

4. Write a substance of the following passage and critically comment on the ideas, language, style and technique: 10 + 10 = 20

We cannot conceive two men born with the same physical, mental and moral nature, at the same moment, under precisely the same conditions and using the same language. They would be identical; and everything they uttered would be clothed with exactly the same words. The absurdity of this conception brings home to us an important aspect of style. Style is not merely a sign of those rational qualities which are generic to established languages, and which constitute the so-called genius of a race. It is also the sign of personal qualities, specific to individuals, which constitute the genius of a man. Whatever a man utters from his heart and head is the index of his character. The more remarkable a person is, the more strongly he is differentiated from the average of human beings, the more salient will be the characteristic notes of his expression. But even the commonest people have, each of them, a specific style. The marks of difference of style are quite obvious in the great literary artists like Dante and Shakespeare, but become less noticeable in the ordinary ranks of daily life. Yet these exist and are no less significant of individuality than the variation between leaf and leaf upon the lime-trees of an avenue.

West Bengal State University B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011 PART – III

ENGLISH — HONOURS PAPER - VII

Duration: 4 Hours [Full Marks: 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

SECTION - I

1. Answer briefly any four of the following questions:

 $4 \times 5 = 20$

- Identify three new features in the narrative mode used by Joseph Conrad in his novels.
- b) Identify two woman novelists of the twentieth century and briefly comment on the contributions of one of these novelists.
- c) What do you understand by the term 'science fiction'? Write briefly on any one of the science fiction writers of the twentieth century.
- d) Discuss briefly the chief stylistic features of Henry James' novels with special reference to any one novel.
- e) Define what is meant by the term 'psychological novel'. Name three modern novels which may be placed in this category.
- f) Write briefly on the contribution of any one of the following writers to the modern short story:
 - i) E. M. Forster
 - ii) Somerset waugham.

SECTION - II

2. Answer any one of the following questions:

 $1 \times 15 = 15$

a) Discuss the autobiographical elements in D.H. Lawrence's Sons and Lovers.

OR

Comment on D.H. Lawrence's portrayal of the working class in Sons and Lovers.

b) Critically consider 1984 as a futuristic novel.

OR

Analyse George Orwell's narrative technique in 1984.

c) Comment on the use of symbolism in Virginia Woolf's novel To The Lighthouse.

OR

Critically analyse the role of Lily Briscoe in To The Lighthouse.

d) Is Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man a representative modernist novel? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

Discuss Joyce's presentation of politics and religion in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.

3. Answer any three of the following from any one Group of your choice:

 $3 \times 5 \approx 15$

GROUP - I

- a) What led to Miriam's defeat?
- b) Briefly analyse the character of Baxter Dawes.
- c) Write a short note on the role of William Morel.
- d) "My boy remember you are taking your life in your hands Nothing is as bad as a bad marriage. That's a hopeless failure. Mine was bad enough, God knows, and ought to teach you something."

Who is warning and whom, of a bad marriage? Why would the marriage, if it did take place, be a bad one?

GROUP - II

- e) Comment on Orwell's idea of 'Newspeak'.
- f) "This prospect frightens me much more than bombs."

 Who is the speaker? What prospect is referred to here? Answer with close reference to the text.
- g) Give the significance of the symbol of the rats in 1984.
- h) Analyse the multiple meanings of Oceania in brief.

GROUP - III

- i) What is the significance of the waves?
- j) "To her son these words conveyed an extraordinary joy, as if it were settled the expedition were bound to take place,"

Who is the speaker and what were her words? What 'expedition' is referred to here?

- k) Comment on the character of Cam.
- l) Comment on the role of Mr. Ramsay.

GROUP - IV

- m) Critically analyse Stephen's confession to the priest.
- n) Critically examine the significance of the moment when Stephen is standing on the steps of the University Library and looking at the birds.
- o) What is the technique used by Joyce to convey a child's point of view?
- p) "He turned to the fly leaf of the geography and read, what he had written there:"

Who is 'he' referred to here? What were the things he had written on the fly leaf?

SECTION - III

4. Answer any one of the following questions:

 $1 \times 15 = 15$

- a) "He was full of smouldering anger and revengefulness. He felt humiliated and discontented."
 - In the light of this remark analyse *Counterparts* as a story of indignity, boredom and frustration of the protagonist.
- b) How far is Kew Gardens a story about Man and Nature? Discuss.
- c) Examine Forster's vision of the future as brought out in *The Machine Stops*.
- d) Analyse critically the motif of *The White Stocking* used by D.H. Lawrence in his short story.
- e) Consider the elements of suspense and grim humour in Conrad's story

 The Black Mate.
- f) How does the character of Mr. Colloway illustrate the theme of the loss of freedom and dignity?

5. Answer any three of the following questions:

 $3 \times 5 = 15$

- a) Why do you think Farrington starts beating the child at the end of the story Counterparts?
- b) "The snail's journey mirrors man's struggles." Is this a correct estimate of the snail?
- c) Briefly comment on the mother-son relationship in the story The Machine Stops.
- d) How did Whiston react to Elsie's revelation about the valentines sent by Adams?
- e) Comment on the acrimony between Bunter and his Captain in The Black Mate.
- f) "Death doesn't change comedy to tragedy." Explain the significance of the line.

SECTION - IV

6. Write an essay on any one of the following:

 $1 \times 20 = 20$

- a) Role of newspapers in the learning of language(s).
- b) The Impact of Literature on Society.
- c) Classics and Bestsellers.
- d) Poetry in an Age of Computer.

West Bengal State University BA./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011

PART-III (Honours) ENGLISH PAPER-VIII

Duration: 4 Hours

Maximum Marks: 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Answer Questions from Option-1 or Option-2.

OPTION-1

(INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH)

SECTION - 1

1. Answer any four of the following in brief:

 $4 \times 5 = 20$

- a) Indicate three features of Postmodernism.
- b) Explain Gynocriticism.
- c) Explain signifier and signified.
- d) Name two Marxist literary critics. What does Marxist criticism mean?
- e) What are Synchronic and diachronic?
- f) What do you understand by post-colonialism? Name two postcolonial critics.

SECTION - 2

2. Answer any *one* of the following questions:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

a) Discuss the relationship of Krishna and Susila in Narayan's novel *The English Teacher*.

OR

- b) Comment on the element of humuor in Narayan's art of storytelling in *The English Teacher*. Mention at least two incidents from the novel to illustrate your answer.
- c) Which experience is more important for the major characters in *Kanthapura*: the political or the religious? Discuss.

OR

- d) Discuss how *Kanthapura* depicts rural life in India under the impact of the freedom movement.
- e) ... How is the theme of loss explored in *The Inheritance of Loss*.

ÒR

- f) Location plays a pivotal role in defining identity in *The Inheritance of Loss*. Elucidate with suitable illustrations.
- g) Comment on the title of Sunetra Gupta's novel Memories of Rain.

OR

- h) To what extent does Moni's cultural background affect her marriage in *Memories of Rain.*
- 3. Answer briefly any two of the following from any one group of your choice:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

GROUP - 1

- a) Krishna's view of the English education system at the time of his resignation.
- b) Specify two autobiographical elements in *The English Teacher*.
- c) Krishna's psychic communication with his dead wife.

- d) What is a 'Sthalapurana'?
- e) Ratna
- Nobody knows how large it is or when it was founded ... 'What does 'it' refer to ? Give a brief description.

- g) Nimi
- h) Gorkha insurgency
- i) Kalimpong.

GROUP - 4

- j) Significance of any one of Tagore's songs used in Memories of Rain.
- k) Three Calcutta locations used in the novel.
- l) Anna.

SECTION - 3

4. Answer any one of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

- a) Assess the relationship between Ustad Rahim Khan and his tanpura player as depicted in "The Accompanist".
- b) How does Mulk Raj Anand succeed in drawing the sympathies of the reader to the rebel in "The Terrorist"?
- c) Does Bhabani Bhattacharya raise issues of man's responsibility to himself and to society in "Glory at Twilight" ? Illustrate from the text.
- d) How does Deshpande probe into the mother-daughter relationship in "My Beloved Charioteer"?
- e) What glimpses of life in the North-east does Tirisula Ao offer in 'The Journey'?
- f) How does Ruskin Bond explore man's rootedness to nature in the story "My Father's Trees at Dehra".

5. Answer any *two* of the following:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

- a) 'We never diverge: we leave and we arrive together.' Explain.
- b) Comment on how the picture of Buddha inspires Bir Singh.
- c) 'Glory was all overlaid with dark shame. Glory was dead.' Comment with reference to the context.
- d) Write a note on Priti's relationship with her grandmother.
- e) What is the origin and destination of 'The Journey' undertaken?
- f) Grandfather's bungalow in Dehra.

SECTION - 4

6. Answer any one of the following:

- $1 \times 10 = 10$
- a) What are the features of Indian English poetry that you can identify in Sarojini Naidu's Pardahnashin?
- b) Analysis the symbolisum in Kamala Das's poem The Old Plauhouse.
- c) What kinds of hunger does Jayanta Mahapatra delineate in his poem, Hunger?
- 7. Comment with reference to the context on any two of the following: $2 \times 5 = 10$
 - a) Three happy children in a darkened room!
 What do they gaze on with wide open eyes?
 - b) The best poets wait for words.
 - You learn roots are deep,
 That language is a tree, loses colour
 Under another sky'.
 - d) What else can an old woman do
 On hills as wretched as these?'
 - e) The day after the first rain,

 For years I would come home in a rage,

SECTION - 5

8. Answer the following:

10

a) Consider the gender issues and ingrained violence highlighted in Dattani's play Bravely Fought the Queen OR Tara.

OR

- b) Comment on the recurring motifs used in Bravely Fought the Queen OR Tara.
- 9. Answer any two of the following:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

a) Comment on Dolly's demonstration of Daksha's dancing.

OR

Comment on Tara and Chandan's joke on Roopa's English usage.

b) '... but when they've reached their dwarfed maturity, they really look bizarre with pea-sized mangoes or oranges!' Expalin with reference to the context.

OR

'Two lives and one body, in one comfortable womb. Till we were forced out ... And separated.' Explain with reference to the context.

c) Write on the role of Alka OR Dr. Thakker.

OPTION-2

(AMERICAN LITERATURE)

SECTION - 1

1. Answer any four of the following in brief:

 $4 \times 5 = 20$

- a) Indicate three features of post-modernism.
- b) Explain Gynocriticism.
- c) Explain signifier and signified
- d) Name two Marxist literary critics. What does Marxist criticism mean?
- e) What are Synchronic and diachronic?
- f) What do you understand by Post-colonialism? Name two post-colonial critics.

SECTION - 2

2. Answer any one of the following questions:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

a) i) Critically assess The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn as a picaresque novel.

OR

- ii) Discuss the role of the Mississippi River as a background to The Adventures of Huckleberry Flnn.
- b) i) Discuss The Great Gatsby as a novel that represents the American Dream.

OR

- ii) Write a short note on the role of the narrator in the novel The Great Gatsbu.
- c) i) The Grapes of Wrath is a faithful chronicle of the plight of the migrant Dust Bowl farmers during the Great Depression. Do you agree with this view? Discuss with close reference to the text.

OR

ii) Discuss Steinbeck's art of characterization with regard to any one of the major characters in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

d) i) Discuss the growth and development of Scout Finch as a character in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird.

OR

- ii) Comment on the theme of racial discrimination as portrayed by Harper Lee in her novel.
- e) i) Write a note on Alice Walker's portrayal of the women characters in The Color Purple.

OR

- ii) Consider The Color Purple as an epistolary novel.
- 3. Answer briefly any two of the following from any one Group:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

GROUP - 1

- a) Describe Huck's impression of the House of the Grangerfords in Mark Twain's novel.
- b) Comment on the role of the Duke and the king.
- c) Briefly describe how Huck escaped from his father.

GROUP - 2

- d) "Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us" What is the significance of the green light?
- e) Critically comment on Gatsby's death.
- f) Consider the relationship between Nick Carraway and Jordan Baker.

GROUP ~ 3

- g) What does the turtle in Chapter 3 of The Grapes of Wrath signify?
- Describe the Woodpatch camp and its role in the life of the migrants.
- i) What is the significance of the last episode where Rose of Sharon nurses a starving man?

- j) Describe Boo Radley's house in Harper Lee's novel in To Kill a Mocking-bird.
- k) "Remember it is a sin to kill a mocking-bird." Explain.
- l) Write a short note on the role of Aunt Alexandra.

- m) What is the significance of the colour purple in Alice Walker's novel.
- n) Describe the changes that are brought about in Celie by Shug Avery.
- o) Whom does Celie write letters to and why?

SECTION - 3

4. Answer any one of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

- a) Comment on the significance of the tittle of Hawthorne's story. *The Ambitious Guest*.
- b) Analyse Poe's use of narrative strategies to create suspense and terror in *The Cask of Amontillado*.
- c) Comment on O.Henry's use of irony in his story, *The Cactus*.
- d) Discuss the portrayal of the parents in W.W. Jacob's story. The Monkey's Paw.
- e) Analyse Mamzelle Aurelie's regret in Kate Chopin's story, 'Regret'.
- f) Willa Cather's story, *On the Gulls Road* documents the poignancy of first love. Analyse the story in the light of the above statement.
- 5. Answer any two of the following:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

- a) "But I cannot die till I have achieved my destiny." Explain.
- b) Why does Montresor take his revenge on Fortunato and how in Edgar Allan Poe's story?
- c) Why does the narrator in *The Cactus* pretend to know Spanish?
- d) What was the friend's warning about the monkey's paw? How did this warning come true in the way the parents' first wish was fulfilled?
- e) Describe in brief how the children disturbed Mamzelle Aurélie's settled household in Chopin's story *Regret*.
- f) What is the significance of the things that the painter finds in the box in the story. On the Gull's Road?

SECTION - 4

6. Answer any one of the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

- a) Write a critical appreciation of Walt Whitman's poem, Crossing Brooklyn Ferry.
- b) How does Plath evoke the image of a father in Daddy? Analyse with close reference to the poem.
- c) How does Langston Hughes use of the image of the river in A Negro Speaks of Rivers.

7. Explain and annotate any two with reference to the context:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

a) "I have it in me so much nearer home

To scare myself with my own desert places."

b) "... whose texture

compels me with the color of its countries,

rendering death and forever with each breathing"

c) "What thoughts I have of you tonight,

Walt Whitman ... "

- d) "Because I could not stop for Death, He kindly stopped for me ..."
- e) "Somebody muffed it? Somebody wanted to joke."

SECTION - 5

8. Answer the following:

 $1 \times 10 = 10$

a) Comment on the characterization of the women in The Glass Menagerie or Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

OR

- b) Critically discuss the significance of the title in the play *The Glass Menagerie or* Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
- 9. Answer any two of the following:

 $2 \times 5 = 10$

a) "Oh Laura, Laura, I tried to leave you behind me but I am more faithful than I intended to be." Explain.

OR

"You didn't do anything, you never do anything; you never mix." Explain.

b) Why does Laura stop going to the Rubicon Business School? Why does she lie to her mother?

OR

Why does George criticize the discipline of Biology?

c) What is symbolised by the fire escape?

OR

Write a short note on the fantasy child of George and Martha.