

**West Bengal State University**

**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General ) Examination, 2010**

**PART-I ( General )**

**ENGLISH**

**Paper-I**

Duration : 3 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.*

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions 3 × 16 = 48
- a) Define a sonnet. Identify and illustrate the characteristics of a sonnet and comment on the theme with reference to either Shakespeare's 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day' ( sonnet number 18 ) or Milton's sonnet 'On His Blindness'.
- b) Write a critical appreciation of Wordsworth's poem, 'Strange Fits of Passion'.
- c) Show how Keats brings out the spirit of autumn through vivid descriptive details in 'Ode to Autumn'.
- d) "He works his work, I mine." What character contrast do you find between the two persons referred to in this line taken from Tennyson's poem ?

- e) Analyse Browning's attitude to worldly success and failure as revealed in the poem 'The Last Ride Together'.
- f) Comment on Wilfred Owen's attitude to war. Answer with reference to 'Futility'.
- g) Describe the seascape as drawn by Auden in 'Look Stranger'.
- h) Discuss the theme of the poem, 'When I Lie Where Shades of Darkness'. What advice does the poet offer and why ?

2. Answer any six of the following questions . 6 × 2 = 12

- a) "... And every fair from fair sometime declines." Explain the line.
- b) "To serve therewith my maker ....." ." Who is the Maker ? How does Milton wish to serve the Maker ?
- c) "Myself will to my darling be  
Both law and impulse ....." "  
Explain the phrase 'law and impulse'.
- d) "Like a poet hidden  
In the light of thought"  
Explain the comparison.
- e) "Until they think warm days will never cease"  
Who are they ? Why do they think so ?
- f) "I am become a name ... "  
Who is 'I' ?  
How has the speaker become 'a name' ?

g) "Who knows but the world may end tonight ?"

Who says this and when ? What does the speaker mean ?

h) "Mysterious, beautiful :"

Who are 'mysterious' and 'beautiful' ?

Why are they called so ?

i) How does Auden describe the ships in his poem ?

j) "... the clays of a cold star."

What does the poet mean by 'the clays' and 'a cold star' ?

3. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title. 16 + 4 = 20

The decay of art in our time is not only due to the fact that the social function of the artist is not as important as in former days ; it is also due to the fact that spontaneous delight is no longer felt as something which is important to be able to enjoy. Among comparatively unsophisticated populations folk dances and popular music still flourish and something of the poet exists in very many men. But as men grow more industrialised and regimented, the kind of delight that is common in children becomes impossible to adults because they are always thinking of the next thing and cannot let themselves be absorbed in the moment. This habit of thinking of the 'next thing' is more fatal to any kind of aesthetic excellence than any other habit of mind that can be imagined, and if art, in any important sense, is to survive, it will not be by the foundation of solemn academies, but by recapturing the capacity for whole-hearted joys and sorrows which prudence and foresight have all but destroyed.

4. Identify and explain the Figures of Speech in any *four* of the following 4 × 3 = 12
- a) She shall be sportive as the fawn ... .
  - b) Sceptre and Crown / Must tumble down.
  - c) To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.
  - d) Let not Ambition mock their useful toil.
  - e) Ethereal minstrel ! Pilgrim of the sky.
  - f) They also serve who only stand and wait.
  - g) To rust unburnished, not to shine in use.
  - h) The curfew tolls the knell of parting day.

5. Punctuate the following passage and rectify the errors in capitalisation. 8

in germany italy spain england america and most of all in france where the vogue of sheer and often indigestible erudition was never wholeheartedly adopted literary talent may have gone more into historical writing than into the novel or the short story many reasons account for the brilliance and the impact of this branch of non fictional prose