

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2025
First Year, Second Semester
ENGLISH
Romantic Geographies

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss, with adequate textual references, the growing interest in the “contemplation of landscape” as a social accomplishment of the educated and cultivated during the eighteenth century and its significance in shaping the Romantic conceptions of social and political life.
2. Discuss briefly the developments in the “English Landscape Movement” of the eighteenth century as symbolizing allegiance to the new order of government, English liberalism, and freedom from monarchic tyranny. Illustrate your answer with references to representative topographical poems that you have read.
3. Attempt an analysis of Joseph Warton’s poem “The Enthusiast: or the Lover of Nature” as a rebellion against the poetry of wit and sense in the eighteenth century.
4. How does Gilpin’s model of the “picturesque” offer a counter-tradition to the classical conceptions of order and perfection in eighteenth century landscape traditions and topographical poetry? Answer with close reference to his “Essay on Picturesque Beauty.”
5. Comment on the silent evasions of “history” in Wordsworth’s “Tintern Abbey.”
6. “Where ‘Helpstone’ may articulate the position of the peasant, ‘The Mores’ articulates that of the peasant poet.” Discuss the connection of politics and poetics in these two poems by John Clare in the light of the above statement.
7. Examine how Coleridge uses the images of the “oriental landscape” to create a false paradise in “Kubla Khan.”
