

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
Second Year, Second Semester Examinations, 2025
Major: The Renaissance

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer **any one** question from each of the four COs given below:

CO1: Critically engage with the history of ideas, including discussions on rationalism, empiricism, scepticism, humanism and individualism. (10)

1.(a) Discuss how *Hamlet* engages with some of the key ideas and debates of the European Renaissance (10.marks)

1. (b) Comment on the use and abuse of the tropes of courtly love/Petrarchan love poetry in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. (10 marks)

1.(c) What are the principal features of metaphysical poetry? How does Donne use these traits in his love and religious poems? Discuss with examples. (10 marks)

CO2: Apply the understanding of the history of ideas to the reading and analysis of texts.

Locate and annotate **any one** of the following textual passages. (5)

2. (a) For love, all love of other sights controls,
And makes one little room an everywhere

2. (b) Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head.
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

2. (c) "He that *travaileth* into a Country, before he hath some Entrance into the Language, goeth to *Schoole*, and not to *Travaile*."

CO3: Understand the development of certain genres specific to the Renaissance. (10)

3. (a) In the *Essays* "Bacon is writing no mere set of detached observations but a conduct-book addressed to the active life of 'civil business'". Discuss this statement with reference to the essays that you have read.

3. (b) Would you describe *The Jew of Malta* as a farce? Provide reasons for your answer.

3. (c) "The English sonnet combines the lyrical and the dramatic modes". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer and substantiate it with examples.

CO4: Develop tools and frameworks to locate canonical authors like Shakespeare, Spenser, Bacon, More, Sidney and Marlowe in their historical contexts.

Locate and annotate **any one** of the following passages.

(5)

4. (a) "Fool" said my Muse to me, "Look in thy heart and write"
- 4 (b) This thou perceiv'st which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well, which thou must leave ere long.
4. (c) Is it no verse, except enchanted groves
And sudden arbours shadow coarse-spun lines?
Must purling streams refresh a lovers loves?
4. (d) I count religion but a childish toy,
And hold there is no sin but ignorance.
Birds of the air will tell of murders past!
I am ashamed to hear such fooleries.
