

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
First Year First Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
English Literature 1830 - 1900

Time: 2 Hours

Full marks: 30

Answer any *three* questions taking at least *one* from *each* group.
All questions carry equal marks.

Group A

1. 'Bronte complicates the narrative technique of *Wuthering Heights* in such a way that it becomes increasingly difficult to arrive at the truth.' Comment.
2. Would you agree that Charles Dickens's *Hard Times* fails as social critique but succeeds aesthetically? Argue your case with reference to the novel.
3. How does Stevenson dramatise the dichotomy between good and evil in *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*? Answer with close reference to the novel.
4. Hardy's sub-title to *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* defines the protagonist as 'a pure woman'. After reading the novel, are you inclined to agree with this assessment? Give reasons for your argument
5. In Ibsen's *A Doll's House* Nora Helmer and Christine Linde are a study in contrasts. Elaborate.
6. Show how high seriousness underlies the apparent high comedy of Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
7. In his "Conclusion" to *The Renaissance* Walter Pater writes: "To burn always with this hard gem-like flame, to maintain this ecstasy, is success in life". What is the implication of this statement? Does it successfully capture the essence of his doctrine of aestheticism?

Group B

8. 'While Tennyson's Ulysses craves "life piled on life" and embarks on more adventures, his Tithonus gives up on life and yearns for oblivion in the grave.' Discuss.
9. Analyse Browning's 'My Last Duchess' as poem that centres around a marriage negotiation among the Renaissance aristocrats in Italy. How significant is the 'last Duchess' to this negotiation?
10. In what ways are the masculine conventions of sonnet writing re-worked in Barrett Browning's *Sonnets from the Portuguese*?
11. Are the speakers in Matthew Arnold's "Dover Beach" and "The Scholar-Gipsy" narcissistic and self-indulgent, as regards their representations of the Victorian crisis of faith? Substantiate your answer with textual illustrations.
12. 'Rossetti's poems are utterly simple yet most complex.' How far does this remark hold good for 'A Triad', 'An Apple Gathering', and 'In an Artist's Studio'?
13. Would you describe Dickinson's representation of death in her poetry as predictable or ingenious? Answer with close reference to any *two* poems prescribed in your syllabus.