

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
Third Year Sixth Semester
ENGLISH
Images of the Orient in Romantic Literature

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer question 1 and *any two* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. a) Discuss briefly the evolution of the idea of Europe, from being a geographical expression in Antiquity to a cultural-political idea in the medieval and early modern period. What impact does it have on the formation of a 'European identity' particularly in relation to the orient?

OR

1. b) How valid is Said's 'audacity' in implicating the literature of sensibility in the squalor and brutality of imperialism? Answer with reference to the writings of some of the Romantic poets that you have read in this course.

2. Examine the theme of oriental despotism in William Beckford's *Vathek*.

3. In the 'Preface' to the twentieth edition of *LallaRookh*, Thomas Moore wrote that 'the cause of tolerance was again my inspiring theme; and the spirit that had spoken in the melodies of Ireland soon found itself at home in the East'. Attempt a reading of the 'The Fire Worshippers' in the light of the above statement.

4. Analyze the poem *The Giaour* as a profound reflection on the moral purpose of the Empire and the value of religious and missionary activity in the East.

5. Examine how Southey's *The Curse of Kehamais* divided over the political fault lines of the 'Anglicist-Orientalist' debates regarding future of British rule in India.

6. Discuss some of the images and sensations of the orient induced by the Malay in De Quincey's nightmares in *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*.