

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
Third Year Fifth Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
Romantic Women Poets

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any *three* questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. In her note to the 1773 version of “The Mouse’s Petition”, Anna Laetitia Barbauld opines that the poem is intended as a “petition of mercy against justice” and not as a “plea of humanity against cruelty”. Do you agree with Barbauld’s opinion? Support your answer with suitable examples.
2. Assess Charlotte Smith as a sonneteer? In what ways does she overlay two conventions of sonnet writing in Sonnet XLIV? Is Sonnet XLIV a thematic reworking of Sonnet XII? Answer with appropriate textual illustrations.
3. With reference to Mary Robinson’s “London’s Summer Morning”, write brief notes on any *two* of the following: (a) urban sounds (b) interrelationship between texts (c) “Now, spruce and trim,/ In shops (where beauty smiles with industry,)/ Sits the smart damsel, while the passenger/ Peeps through the window, watching ev’ry charm.” (d) “And the poor poet wakes from busy dreams/ To paint the summer morning.”
4. Amelia Opie’s “The Black Man’s Lament” presents an articulate black slave who exposes the injustices entrenched within the system of slavery. Elaborate with appropriate examples from the poem.
5. Would you consider the actions (infanticide and suicide) of the mother figure in “The Wife of Asdrubal” to be morally wrong or are they justifiable? Give reasons for your answer.