

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

Third Year, Sixth Semester

ENGLISH

Edgar Allan Poe

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1a. Why are the earliest biographies of Poe highly unreliable? Discuss with reference to the works published in the 1840s.

Or

1b. Would you agree with Harry Houdini's remark, "Conan Doyle pinched Edgar Allan Poe's plumes"? Give reasons.

2a. To what extent is Egaeus's seizure of Berenice's teeth an ironic act? Give reasons.

Or

2b. How does Marie Bonaparte interpret the fall in "The Fall of the House of Usher"? Do you agree with her? Why?

3a. Show how Poe subverts Dupin's claim to intelligence and exposes his moral deficiencies in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue".

Or

3b. "Only Legrand is capable of decoding. Jupiter and the narrator, for their part, are on bad terms with language." Elucidate with reference to *The Gold-Bug*.

4a. Examine the significance of the "bust of Pallas" in "The Raven".

Or

4b. Is the narrator of "Annabel Lee" a tragic lover or a morbid monomaniac or both? Give reasons.

5a. What does Poe's self-contradictory argument on the "*dénouement*" in "The Philosophy of Composition" reveal about his understanding of his own poetry? Discuss.

Or

5b. Why does Poe consider the death of a beautiful woman doubly ironic? Why, according to you, does he return to this theme repeatedly in his writings?