

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

First Year Second Semester

ENGLISH

Science, Poetry and Politics in the Renaissance

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

Group A

1. 'Subtle's experience in natural science and mathematics has equal weight with his experience as an alchemist, conjurer, thief, and jack-of-all-trades – none of them successful.' Examine this statement in the light of Jonson's treatment of Subtle in *The Alchemist*.
2. The main treatise of Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* is a persistent mockery of *philosophia speculativa* and a re-emphasis on Christianised *philosophia practica*. Discuss.
3. Discuss some of the notable breakthroughs achieved in early modern anatomical science and examine the contribution made by Leonardo da Vinci to this field with close reference to his *Notebooks*.
4. As an apostle of the new sciences and medical reform, Rabelais in *Gargantua and Pantagruel* recognized that the health of the body was related to the health of the soul. Do you agree? Give reasons.

Group B

5. 'How they will wield/ The mighty frame; how build, unbuild, contrive / To save appearances.' How does Raphael's speech in *Paradise Lost* Book 8, lines 80-82 engage with the cosmological debates of the 'Scientific Renaissance'?
6. Discuss how *Doctor Faustus* reflects the anxiety of the modern man.
7. Discuss how John Donne simultaneously makes use of concepts belonging to both the 'old science' and the 'new science' in his poems.

Or

8. How is Marvell's acceptance of scientific discoveries different from that of Donne? Discuss with examples from their poems.
9. Examine Bacon's *New Atlantis* as an allegory of scientific knowledge.