

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2018
First Year Second Semester
ENGLISH
Special Author: W.B. Yeats

Time: 2 hours

Full marks: 30

Answer any three questions. Questions carry equal marks.

1. How does Yeats use autobiography as a structural principle in his poetry? Discuss with reference to any two poems that you consider particularly significant.
2. "Technique outstrips content in Yeats's earliest lyrics: language, rather than thought, appears as the sphere of experimentation." Do you agree? Give reasons.
- 3a. Comment critically on Yeats's use of the image of the rose in his early poetry.
- or
- 3b. Comment on Yeats's use of themes from Irish mythology in his poetry.
4. Critically examine the changes in the assessment of the political sphere as represented in three poems: *September 1913*, *Easter 1916* and *Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen*.
5. "No matter how I begin, it becomes love poetry before I am finished with it." Would you agree with the view that love is for Yeats fundamental to the entire poetic process? Give reasons for your answer.
6. Examine Yeats's ideas about historical change as presented in *The Phases of the Moon* and *The Second Coming*.
7. "Few poets have expressed the fear of the loss of poetic power more powerfully than Yeats." Consider this comment in the light of *The Wild Swans at Coole* and *The Circus Animals' Desertion*.
8. Critically comment on the importance of *location* in Yeats's poetry.
9. What does Byzantium stand for in Yeats's poetry? Discuss with reference to the two Byzantium poems.
10. "My first denunciation of old age [was] made ... before I was twenty & the same denunciation comes in the last pages of the book". Comment on the theme of aging in Yeats's poetry.