

Bachelor of Arts Examination, 2022
Second Year Fourth Semester
Department of English
The Beginnings of Public Discourse

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. a. How far is Marvell successful in reconciling the ideas of *otium* and *negotium* in 'The Garden'?

Or

- b. Would you consider Vaughan's 'The Retreat' as an act of *anamnesis*? Justify your answer.
2. a. Would you agree that Belinda's remarkable visibility in Pope's 'The Rape of the Lock' actually signals her non-existence as a subject? Justify your answer.

Or

- b. "Dryden's imaginative reordering of both Biblical and English history helps create a rich poetic ambiguity that becomes the chief strength of the poem and avoids the path of ideological propaganda." Attempt a reading of *Absalom and Achitophel* in the light of the above statement.
3. a. Discuss in detail the use of the Future Tense in Crashaw's poem 'A Hymn to...St. Teresa'.

Or

- b. Is Traherne's poem 'Innocence' about religious devotion or about mysticism? Discuss with detailed reference to the text.
4. a. In what ways do seventeenth-century women poets challenge the conventions of male love poetry? Answer with reference to textual illustrations.

Or

- b. Can Duck and Collier be classified as working class and feminist poets? Substantiate your answer with textual and theoretical evidence.
5. 'It is difficult to determine whether (in the fashionable Vices) the fine Gentlemen imitate the Gentlemen of the Road, or the Gentlemen of the Road the fine Gentlemen.' How does this comment by the Beggar help us understand the politics of *The Beggar's Opera*?
6. a. How would you distinguish between the prose styles of Addison and Steele? Discuss with examples from the essays you have read.

Or

- b. "The *Iliad*, containing less than sixteen thousand verses, might have been despatched in less than three hundred and twenty days by fifty verses in a day. The notes, compiled with the assistance of his mercenaries, could not be supposed to require more time than

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the text. According to this calculation, the progress of Pope may seem to have been slow; but the distance is commonly very great between actual performances and speculative possibility. It is natural to suppose, that as much as has been done to-day may be done to-morrow; but on the morrow some difficulty emerges, or some external impediment obstructs. Indolence, interruption, business, and pleasure, all take their turns of retardation; and every long work is lengthened by a thousand causes that can, and ten thousand that cannot, be recounted.”

Discuss this statement with close reference to the text of Samuel Johnson's *Life of Pope*.