

Bachelor of Arts Examination, 2022

Third Year Sixth Semester

Department of English

Images of the Orient in Romantic Literature

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any two* of the following questions: [15X2]

1. How would you read Romantic Orientalism's participation in the dark legacies of Western colonialism? Support your claims with evidence from both primary and secondary sources on the subject.
2. Would you agree that Said's definition of Orientalism is largely inadequate in accounting for the variety of ways in which European Romanticism engaged with the 'east'? Justify your answer with adequate textual examples.
3. How and why does William Beckford create the 'spectacle' of the Romantic Sublime in his oriental tale *Vathek*?
4. Would you agree with the view that the romantic resolution of *Lalla Rookh* challenges Irish readers to rejoice in its Islamic symbolism as a means to view the Irish nation's long fight for liberty? How was Moore suggesting new metaphors for the form of cultural nationalism in Ireland through this symbolism? Answer with reference to both the metanarrative of *Lalla Rookh* as well as the poem within it called 'The Fire Worshippers'.
5. Comment on Byron's experiments with the various male points of view, including the poet himself, in reconstructing the story of the dead heroine Leila in *The Giaour*.
6. Why, according to you, does William Jones assume the persona of a Brahmin in his "Hymn to Ganga"? What does this tell us about the political motives underlying his glorification of Hindu mythology and Sanskrit literature?