

Master of Arts Examination, 2022
First Year Second Semester
Department of English
Romantic Geographies

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

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

1. In the context of eighteenth century discourses on landscape, briefly discuss the 'prospect' and 'picturesque' as distinct aesthetic categories and the nature of the authority they conferred upon their writers and readers. Answer with adequate textual examples.
2. Comment on the idea of the garden as the 'purest of human pleasures' and its significance to the Romantic conceptions of social and political life as reflected in some of the poems on nature you read in this course.
3. How does Gilpin's model of the 'picturesque' offer a counter-tradition to the classical conceptions of order and perfection in eighteenth century landscape traditions and topographical poetry? Answer with close reference to his 'Essay on Picturesque Beauty'.
4. Would you agree with the view that Thelwall's engagement with the picturesque should not be read as a retreat from active politics but as a sustained and evolving dedication to his reformist principles? Justify your answer with adequate references from *The Peripatetic*.
5. Comment on Wordsworth's representation of the 'natural community' in 'Tintern Abbey'.
6. Compare the depiction of the impact of displacement and dispossession as a result of the 'enclosures movement' in Wordsworth's 'Michael: A Pastoral' and Clare's 'The Mores' and 'Remembrances'.
7. Critically analyze Coleridge's 'essentialization' of the Orient in 'Kubla Khan' and the role of the 'Preface' in deterring readers from questioning its accuracy.
8. How would you understand the concept of 'Romantic Geographies', and its significance to modern notions of the nation? Is it a place of resistance, consciousness and assertion of freedom and autonomy or in complicity with the forces of European imperialism?