

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017

Third Year Fifth Semester

ENGLISH (HONOURS)

English Literature 1900-2000

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *three* questions taking *one* from each group. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A

1. Describe the state of modern Anglo-American drama before Miller and Beckett, identifying the ways in which they revolutionized the art.
2. "The social relevance of *Death of a Salesman* in the 21st century has moved away from the United States to other countries." Examine the acceptability of this statement.
3. "*Waiting for Godot* justifiably receives intellectual attention for its existentialist content, but critics tend to forget how much of 'low' humour and popular culture Beckett used." Discuss the critical tendencies behind this 'forgetting'.
4. What does T.S. Eliot mean by 'dissociation of sensibilities'? How useful is it to revisit literature of the time that Eliot refers to? Give reasons for your answer.

Group B

5. "The ethical content of photographs is fragile." Comment on Sontag's critique of the "photographic inventory of ultimate horror" in her essay "In Plato's Cave"
6. Discuss D.H. Lawrence's attempt to rewrite the Bible in *The Rainbow* and the reception it received from the public.
7. What kind of a nineteenth century novel does John Fowles create in *The French Lieutenant's Woman*? Substantiate your answer with examples from the text.
8. Can 'Black Venus' be read as Angela Carter's attempt to rescue Jeanne Duval from the Baudelairean imagination? How successful is it?
9. How is the boy's relationship with Mangan's sister subverted by the shop girl in Joyce's 'Araby'? What are the implications of the subversion?

Group C

10. a) Critically examine the interplay between faith and skepticism in T.S. Eliot's 'The Journey of the Magi' and 'A Song for Simeon'.

OR

- b) 'The speaker of "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" is trapped in his own mind, so full of hesitation and doubt that he is unable to act.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
11. 'Hopkins's poems are only secondarily religious poems'. Discuss.
12. a) Do you think that the idiosyncrasies of Yeats's vision and opinion undermine the aesthetic acceptability of his poems? Discuss with reference to *any three* poems composed by Yeats after 1915.

OR

- b) 'Yeats's early poetry is not about Ireland, but about Irishness - there is a good deal of promise in getting beyond them'. Discuss with illustrations from some of the texts that you have read
13. Would you consider Plath as a confessional poet? Give reasons for your answer.