

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023
First Year First Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
ACADEMIC WRITING

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. Write an essay on *any one* of the following topics:

- i) Your favourite character from a comic book or story, and why you like them.
- ii) How and why you would adapt any text from a period of English literary history in order to perform it.
- iii) Gender in literature
- iv) The pros and cons of social media
- v) A trip to the unknown

2. Write a precis of the following passage in one-third of the total number of words.

Remember to add a title and mention the number of words of the precis at the end:

Like so many other places in the tide country, Canning was named by an *Ingrej*. And in this case it was no ordinary Englishman who gave it his name – not only was he a Lord, he was a *laat*, nothing less than a Viceroy, Lord Canning. This *laat* and his *ledi* were as generous in sprinkling their names around the country as a later generation of politicians were to be in scattering their ashes: you came across them in the most unexpected places – a road here, a gaol there, an occasional asylum. No matter that Ledi Canning was tall, thin and peppery – a Calcutta sweet-maker took it into his head to name a new confection after her. The sweet was black, round and sugary – in other words, it was everything its namesake was not, which was lucky for the sweet-maker because it meant his creation quickly became a success. People gobbled up the new sweets at such a rate that they could not take the time to say ‘Lady Canning’. The name was soon shortened to *ledigeni*. [No of words: 177]

3. Read the passage given and answer the questions that follow (5+5):

Well, I must tell you that this lady, who was otherwise a respectable person, came under the notice of Detective Inspector MacLeary.

‘My dear,’ said MacLeary to his wife one evening, ‘I can’t get that Mrs Myers out of my head. What I’d like to know is, how the woman makes her living. Just fancy, here we are in the month of February and she’s sent her servant for asparagus. And I’ve discovered that she has between twelve and twenty visitors every day, and they vary from charwomen to duchesses. I know, darling, you’ll say she’s probably a fortune-teller. Very likely, but that can only be a blind for something else, say, the white slave traffic or espionage. Look here, I’d rather like to get to the bottom of it.’

[Turn over

'All right, Bob, said the excellent Mrs MacLeary, 'you leave it to me.'

And so it came about that on the following day, Mrs MacLeary, of course without her wedding ring, but on the other hand very girlishly dressed, with a sacred look on her baby face, rang at Mrs Myers's door in Bayswater or possibly Marylebone. She had to wait quite a while before Mrs Myers received her.

- (i) Why and about whom does Inspector MacLeary become suspicious?
- (ii) What do you think Mrs MacLeary did and what could she have discovered?

4. Write a critical appreciation of the poem extract given below:

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door—
Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember it was in the bleak December;
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the morrow;—vainly I had sought to borrow
From my books surcease of sorrow—sorrow for the lost Lenore—
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore—
Nameless *here* for evermore.

5. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow (5+5):

My son, your troubled eyes search mine,
Puzzled and hurt by colour line.
Your black skin as soft as velvet shine;
What can I tell you, son of mine?

I could tell you of heartbreak, hatred blind,
I could tell you of crimes that shame mankind,
Of brutal wrong and deeds malign,
Of rape and murder, son of mine;

But I'll tell you instead of brave and fine
When lives of black and white entwine,
And men in brotherhood combine--
This would I tell you, son of mine.

- i) Why do you think the son's eyes are "troubled"? Give reasons.
- ii) Write in your own words how the poet tries to reply to the son's silent queries.

6. Write short notes on any two: (5+5)

Footnote; endnote; bibliography; numbering in notes.