

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023
First Year Second Semester
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Romantic Geographies

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Critically analyse the English Romantic poets' movement away from the concerns of eighteenth-century topographical poetry? How would you read their rejection, of the subordination of nature to ethical and political reflection, in favour of experience in a full way?
2. Comment on the theme of the superiority of nature to art in Joseph Warton's 'The Enthusiast: or the Lover of Nature'.
3. Examine the significance of Burke's distinction of the Beautiful and the Sublime to the aesthetic theories and artistic practices of Romanticism. Answer with reference to the relevant sections of *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*.
4. Would you agree that Gilpin's theories of the picturesque are not really concerned with the political but the aesthetic? Answer with reference to his essay 'On Picturesque Beauty'.
5. Analyse Wordsworth's reconciliation with nature through his poetic consciousness in 'Tintern Abbey'? What are the broader implications of this reconciliation to the political stability of the English nation?
6. Examine the 'dark side' of European Romanticism and its complicity with the imperial intent in Coleridge's 'Kubla Khan'.
7. How does Clare reclaim the authority of the 'peasant poet' with regard to landscape in poems like 'The Mores' and 'Remembrances'? How does it introduce a fresh perspective in the dominant mode of eighteenth-century loco-descriptive poetry?
8. How does Thelwall propose the synthesis of aesthetic contemplation and political activism in depicting the 'dark side of the rural landscape' in his Preface to *The Peripatetic* ?