

6/5/17

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
MASTER OF ARTS ADMISSION TEST 2017

PAPER II

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 100

1. Read the poems given below and answer all the following questions:

Mid-winter waking

Stirring suddenly from long hibernation,
I knew myself once more a poet
Guarded by timeless principalities
Against the worm of death, this hillside haunting;
And presently dared open both my eyes.
O gracious, lofty, shone against from under,
Back-of-the-mind-far clouds like towers;
And you, sudden warm airs that blow
Before the expected season of new blossom,
While sheep still gnaw at roots and lambless go -
Be witness that on waking, this mid-winter,
I found her hand in mine laid closely
Who shall watch out the Spring with me.
We stared in silence all around us
But found no winter anywhere to see.

How like a winter...

How like a winter hath my absence been
From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year!
What freezings have I felt, what dark days seen!
What old December's bareness everywhere!
And yet this time remov'd was summer's time,
The teeming autumn, big with rich increase,
Bearing the wanton burthen of the prime,
Like widow'd wombs after their lords' decease:
Yet this abundant issue seem'd to me
But hope of orphans and unfather'd fruit;
For summer and his pleasures wait on thee,
And thou away, the very birds are mute;
Or if they sing, 'tis with so dull a cheer
That leaves look pale, dreading the winter's near.

[Turn over

- (a) Analyse the representation of winter in the two poems. (10)
- (b) What do you think are the themes of the poems? Is it possible to use the two poems to read each other? Justify your answer. (10)
- (c) In which literary periods do you think the two poems were composed? Give reasons for your answer. (10)
- (d) Contextualise and explain the following phrases: "worm of death, this hillside haunting"; "hope of orphans and unfather'd fruit" (10)

2. Write an essay on any one of the following topics: (40)

- a) Memory in Art
- b) Shakespeare's sister
- c) The ending of a poem
- d) Writing borders

3. Write notes on *any four* of the following, *taking two from each group*: (20)

- a) Bowdlerisation; Mr Bennet and Mrs Brown; Carnavalesque; Grendel's mother; fourth wall; the origins of hip-hop
- b) 'The horror! the horror!'; Bloomsday; the Tabard Inn in Southwark; Phlebas the Phoenician; the Library of Babel; the Hungry Generation