

**Jadavpur University**  
**Department of English**  
**Master of Arts Admission Test 2019**

Full Marks: 100

Time: 2 hours

Answer all questions. Marks are given in the margin

1. Read the following poems and answer the questions below (40)

(i) You're wondering if I'm lonely:

OK then, yes, I'm lonely  
as a plane rides lonely and level  
on its radio beam, aiming  
across the Rockies  
for the blue-strung aisles  
of an airfield on the ocean.

You want to ask, am I lonely?

Well, of course, lonely  
as a woman driving across country  
day after day, leaving behind  
mile after mile  
little towns she might have stopped  
and lived and died in, lonely

If I'm lonely

it must be the loneliness  
of waking first, of breathing  
dawns' first cold breath on the city  
of being the one awake  
in a house wrapped in sleep

If I'm lonely

it's with the rowboat ice-fast on the shore  
in the last red light of the year  
that knows what it is, that knows it's neither  
ice nor mud nor winter light  
but wood, with a gift for burning

[ Turn over

(ii) The Loneliness One dare not sound—

And would as soon surmise  
As in its Grave go plumbing  
To ascertain the size—  
The Loneliness whose worst alarm  
Is lest itself should see—  
And perish from before itself  
For just a scrutiny—

The Horror not to be surveyed—  
But skirted in the Dark—  
With Consciousness suspended—  
And Being under Lock—

I fear me this—is Loneliness—  
The Maker of the soul  
Its Caverns and its Corridors  
Illuminate—or seal—

- (a) Compare the tone of the two poems and their poets' attitudes towards loneliness (10)
- (b) Analyse and compare the images used to characterise loneliness in the two poems. (10)
- (c) Explain the phrases "wood, with a gift of burning" and "The Maker of the Soul" in the two poems (5+5=10)
- (d) When do you think the two poems were composed? Give reasons for your answer. (5+5=10)

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

- (i) "There is no document of civilization which is not at the same time a document of barbarism."
- (ii) "Black literature is taught as sociology, as tolerance, not as a serious, rigorous art form."
- (iii) "A real book is not one we read, but one that reads us."
- (iv) "Masterpieces are not single and solitary births, they are the outcome of many years of thinking in common, of thinking by the body of the people, so that the experience of the mass is behind the single voice."

(v) "Happy endings? Who is it happy for? For how long? Why is it happy for a man and woman to be locked in marriage for ever after? Can we rethink our assumptions of happiness and of endings?"

(vi) "Science fiction is the mythology of modern technology"

3. Write short notes on any two of the following topics (10x2=20)

Bowdlerisation, *Zeitgeist*, Hellenism, Film Noir, Progressive Writers' Movement, Parsi theatre, Noh drama, Wonder Woman, Chick lit., *Rekhti* poetry, Bengal School of Art