

Ex/Eng/UG/015/65/2024

Bachelor of Arts Examination 2024
English
Third Year Sixth Semester
Images of the Orient in Romantic Literature

‘Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. What does Edward Said mean when he says that ‘Orientalism is a discursive phenomenon, internally consistent and self-perpetuating in virtual insulation from any correspondence with a “real orient”’? Why does he take the late eighteenth century as the starting point for this phenomenon?
2. Examine how Beckford reworks *Vathek* from an eighteenth-century oriental tale into a gothic novel.
3. In the Preface to the twentieth edition of *Lalla Rookh*, Thomas Moore wrote that ‘the cause of tolerance was again my inspiring theme; and the spirit that had spoken in the melodies of Ireland soon found itself at home in the East’. Attempt a reading of the ‘The Fire Worshippers’ in the light of the above statement.
4. Comment on Byron’s method of using the fragmented, non-chronological narrative with multiple and unidentifiable speakers in *The Giaour*. How does it influence an interpretation of the poem?
5. Discuss how the Brahmin speaker of William Jones’ “A Hymn to Ganga” reinforces Orientalist ideas about the benevolence of British rule in India.