2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG4400304MJ

(British Poetry : Victorian to Postmodern)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) Who is the speaker in Robert Browning's poem, *My Last Duchess*?

(b) Why does the speaker in Heaney's poem, *The Tollund Man* wish to go to Aarhus?

(c) What is the name of Ulysses' son, mentioned in Tennyson's poem, *Ulysses*?

(d) Mention one image Rossetti's speaker uses to describe her life in *A Better Resurrection*.

(e) Who is Sophocles, referred to in *Dover Beach*?

(f) What does the speaker take off before entering the church in Philip Larkin's poem, *Church Going*?

(g) Name the Egyptian God mentioned in Mina Loy's *Brancusi's Golden Bird*.

(h) Name the war that forms the backdrop of Owen's poem, *Futility*.

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions very briefly : 2×6=12

(a) Explain the role of the sages in Yeats' poem, *Sailing to Byzantium*.

(b) What do the mermaids sing about in T. S. Eliot's poem, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*?

(c) What do the pearls symbolize in Duffy's *Warming Her Pearls*?

(d) What is the significance of the 'midnight hour' in Ted Hughes' poem, *The Thought-Fox*?

(e) What does the 'darkling plain' symbolize in Arnold's poem, *Dover Beach*?

(f) Explain the line :

"To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!"

(g) What does the speaker in Larkin's *Church Going* observe inside the church?

(Continued)

(h) What is the significance of the bronze statue of Neptune mentioned in *My Last Duchess*?

(i) What ancient ritual is associated with the tollund man's death?

(j) What does the phrase "are limbs, so dear-achieved" refer to in *Futility*?

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) Attempt a short note on the character of the Duchess in Browning's *My Last Duchess*.

(b) Elaborate on the significance of the title of Rossetti's poem, *A Better Resurrection*.

(c) Write a short note on the theme of youth and old age in Yeats' *Sailing to Byzantium*.

(d) Analyze the symbol of the sun in Owen's poem, *Futility*.

(e) Discuss the use of irony in Larkin's poem, *Church Going*.

(f) Write a short note on Heaney's description of the ritualistic violence of the past and the contemporary violence of the present in his poem.

(Turn Over)

(g) Write a short description of Brancusi's golden bird, as depicted in Loy's poem of the same name.

(h) Discuss how Ted Hughes' depicts the creative process in his poem, *The Thought-Fox*.

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) Discuss the major characteristics of Victorian poetry with special reference to Tennyson's *Ulysses*.

(b) Elaborate on the features of the dramatic monologue with special reference to Browning's poem, *My Last Duchess*.

(c) Analyze how *Dover Beach* reflects the transition from Victorian certainty to modern doubt.

(d) Attempt a critical note on Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* as a representative modernist poem.

(e) Attempt a critical appreciation of Carol Ann Duffy's *Warming Her Pearls*, focussing on how the poem explores themes of gender, desire and social hierarchy.

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