

2025

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG0400404

(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) Name the region the speaker refers to as “the old man-killing parishes”.
 - (b) Which object symbolizes the unspoken connection between the speaker and her mistress in Duffy’s poem?
 - (c) What does the speaker sign in the church during his visit?
 - (d) What natural imagery does the speaker use to describe youth and vitality in the opening stanza of *Sailing to Byzantium*?
 - (e) What colour does Prufrock mention in relation to the fog or smoke in Eliot’s poem?
 - (f) According to the speaker, who would know “If anything might rouse him (the dead soldier) now”?

- (g) What time of day is described at the beginning of *The Thought-Fox*?
- (h) Who does the speaker want to learn from in Byzantium in Yeats' poem?

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

- (a) How does the setting contrast the melancholy mood in *Dover Beach*?
- (b) What kind of transformation or 'resurrection' does the speaker long for in *A Better Resurrection*?
- (c) How does Ulysses describe old age in Tennyson's poem?
- (d) Why is the Duke dissatisfied with the Duchess's behaviour in *My Last Duchess*?
- (e) What does the repeated phrase "Do I dare" suggest about Prufrock in Eliot's poem?
- (f) Why does the speaker say, "That is no country for old men" in *Sailing to Byzantium*?
- (g) What is the speaker's initial mindset as he enters the church at the beginning of *Church Going*?
- (h) What is the nature of the fox's movements in *The Thought-Fox*?
- (i) What does the maid imagine her mistress thinking about as she sits in the Yellow Room and why?

- (i) What prompts the speaker's reflection in *Futility*?

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Elaborate on the element of pathos in Victorian poetry with reference to some of the poems you have read.
- (b) "The Sea of Faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round
earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled."
What do you understand by the term 'Sea of Faith', and what is Arnold's solution to the crisis of faith in the society of his times? Elucidate.
- (c) Identify some key features of Wilfred Owen's poetry that addresses the theme of war, using examples from his poems.
- (d) Describe briefly the various kinds of experimentation with regard to style and form in modern poetry.
- (e) Discuss the representation of gender in 19th and 20th Century British poetry with reference to any one of the prescribed poems in the paper.
- (f) Elaborate on the representation of the Tollund Man as a bog body in Heaney's poem.

- (g) Identify some key aspects or dimensions or features of social critique in Victorian literature, with respect to the poems you have read.
- (h) Discuss briefly T. S. Eliot's *Prufrock* as the representative of a modern man.

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) From your reading of the relationship between the Duke and the Duchess in Browning's poem, *My Last Duchess*, analyze the status of women in Victorian society.
- (b) Discuss the key themes in Christina Rossetti's poem, *A Better Resurrection* with special emphasis on its imagery and symbolism.
- (c) Examine critically how W. B. Yeats employs Byzantium as a symbol of permanence in *Sailing to Byzantium*.
- (d) Show, through a reading of the prescribed texts, how modern poets have depicted the city in the modern age.
- (e) Analyze the relevance of the title, *Church Going* as a reflection on ideas such as faith, modernity, the impact of war and the alienation and scepticism of the modern individual through a reading of Larkin's poem.

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