



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY  
B.A. General Part-II Examination, 2019

ENGLISH

PAPER: ENGG-II

Time Allotted: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.  
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.*

1. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
  - (a) Discuss *David Copperfield* as an autobiographical novel.
  - (b) Write a note on the women characters in the novel *David Copperfield*.
  
2. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
  - (a) Discuss the psychological aspects of D.H. Lawrence's 'The Prussian Officer'.
  - (b) Describe the character of Mrs. Thurlow in H.E. Bates' short story "The Ox".
  - (c) Discuss the role of the Boss in Katherine Mansfield's "The Fly".
  - (d) Assess the character of Thomas Wilson in "The Lotus Eater".
  
3. Explain any **two** from the following within 200 words each, with reference to the context: 5×2 = 10
  - (a) "The bodies of the two men lay together, side by side..."
  - (b) "Her relationship to it was that of a beast to a cart".
  - (c) "It gave him a feeling of deep, solid satisfaction to be planted there in the midst of it in full view of that frail old figure in the muffler".
  - (d) "It was full moon and he must have gone to see them by moonlight. Perhaps he died of the beauty of that sight".
  
4. Answer any **one** question from the following within 400 words: 10×1 = 10
  - (a) Why, according to Bacon, travelling is important?
  - (b) Is Addison providing a critique of society in "The Spectator"? Discuss.
  - (c) Bring out the romantic elements in Charles Lamb's "Dream Children: A Reverie".
  - (d) Why did Orwell decide not to shoot the elephant? What made him change in decision?

5. Explain any *two* from the following, within 200 words each, with reference to the context:  $5 \times 2 = 10$
- (a) "It was in this spirit that my little ones crept about me the other evening to hear about their great grandmother Field, who lived in a great house in Norfolk".
- (b) "Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education, in the elder a part of experience".
- (c) "I have often considered these poor souls, with an eye of great commiseration, when I have heard them asking the first man they have met with, whether there was any news stirring".
- (d) "I had almost made up my mind that the whole story was a pack of lies when we heard yells a little distance away".
6. Write short notes on any *five* of the following within 100 words each:  $2 \times 5 = 10$
- Gothic novel, Narrator, Picaresque novel, Irony, Sub-plot, Realism, Art of characterization, Historical novel.
7. Read the following passage and answer the following questions:  $5 \times 3 = 15$
- Poets like Tennyson and Rossetti, prose writers like Arnold, novelists like George Eliot were not of course devoid of acquaintance with foreign writing: such a suggestion would be absurd. But their interests were not concentrated on, or even much directed to, truly contemporary and avant-garde authors abroad. Moreover, knowledge or interest is one thing, and seeking to learn massively about fundamental questions of writing, to naturalize new basic techniques and insights, is another. These are the processes which, over the last two generations, have so often been important. Relatively speaking, the mid-Victorian period was one in which English literature pursued a self-contained course. Certainly, this contrast may be over-simplified; it is not a black and white contrast. On the other hand, in seeing the period of this survey as one of major influence from abroad, we see in it something which has been recurrent in the development of our literature over centuries. More than once in the past, a period of comparative native independence has been succeeded by a period of major influence from continental Europe; this has been assimilated, and once again our literature has temporarily become more self-contained in its development.
- (a) What would be an 'absurd' suggestion?
- (b) What have 'so often been important'?
- (c) How has the mid-Victorian period come to acquire a 'self-contained course'?
8. Write a short story in about 500 words beginning with the following words:  $15 \times 1 = 15$
- "She looked at the mirror. She found a strange figure behind her..."