

BDP Term End Examination
December-2017 & June-2018
Subsidiary Course

ENGLISH

1st Paper

Poetry : SEG - I

Time : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 100

Weightage of Marks : 70%

Special credit will be given for precise and correct answer. Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes, untidiness and illegible handwriting. The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any *two* of the following : $20 \times 2 = 40$
 - a) Comment on the themes of love and mortality in Shakespeare's sonnet "Since Brass nor Stone...".
 - b) Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem 'Death be not Proud'.
 - c) Write a note on the transition from neo-classicism to Romanticism with special reference to James Thomson.
 - d) Keats's poem 'When I have fears ...' has been described as a poem about a poet and his fear of mortality. Discuss.
 - e) Analyse the character of Telemachus in Tennyson's poem 'Ulysses'.
 - f) Do you agree that 'Church Going' reveals an agnostic's attitude to religion and its symbols ? Justify your answer.

2. Answer Option (a) and any *two* from the rest of the following : $12 \times 3 = 36$

- a) Write the substance and comment critically on any *one* of the following poems :

i) Marrying left your maiden name
diseased.
Its five light sounds no longer mean
your face
Your voice, and all your variants of
grace ;
For since you were so thankfully
confused
By law with someone else, you cannot be
Semantically the same as that young
beauty :
It was of her that these two words were
used.

Now it's a phrase applicable to no one,
Lying just where you left it, scattered
through
Old lists, old programmes, a school
prize or two
Packets of letters tied with tartan
ribbon —
Then is it scentless, weightless,
strengthless, wholly
Untruthful ? Try whispering it slowly
No, it means you. Or, since you're past
and gone,

It means what we feel now about you
then.
How beautiful you were, and near, and
young,
So vivid, you might still be there among
These first few days, unfingermarked
again.
So your old name shelters our
faithfulness,
Instead of losing shape and meaning
less
With your depreciating luggage laden.

- ii) Out of the night that covers me,
 Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
 I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul.
 In the fell clutch of circumstance
 I have not winced nor cried aloud
 Under the bludgeonings of chance
 My head is bloody, but unbowed.
 Beyond this place of wrath and tears
 Looms but the horror of the shade
 And yet the menace of the years
 Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.
 It matters not how strait the gate,
 How charged with punishments
 the scroll
 I am the master of my fate :
 I am the captain of my soul.
- b) In what sense does 'Tintern Abbey' offer readers a 'religion of Nature' ?
- c) Discuss the theme of exploitation in Blake's Chimney Sweeper poems.
- d) Analyse the character of the Duke in Browning's poem 'My Last Duchess'.
- e) Assess Yeats' 'An Acre of Grass' as a poem about old age.
- f) Explain with reference to the context :
 "For nature then
 (The coarser pleasures of my boyish days
 And their glad animal movements all gone
 by)
 To me was all in all."

- g) Consider how Heaney contemplates his position in society as a poet, in his poem 'Exposure'.
- h) In what ways does 'Preludes' by T. S. Eliot express the situation of modernity ?
3. Answer any *four* of the following : $6 \times 4 = 24$
- a) In Keats' poem 'When I have fears ...', what is the speaker talking about when he refers to his pen gleaning his teeming brain ?
- b) How does Ulysses assess his current situation in the opening stanza of Tennyson's poem ?
- c) "Grant me an old man's frenzy, / Myself must I remake" — Explain.
- d) Why was the Duke unhappy with his first wife ?
- e) In 'The Chimney Sweeper', of *Innocence* how does Blake evoke sympathy for the little chimney sweeper at the beginning of the poem ?
- f) Explain the meaning of the first stanza of Larkin's poem 'Church Going'.
- g) Briefly explain the miracle in black ink that the poet speaks of in Shakespeare's Sonnet No. 65.
- h) Explain what is meant by —
 "From rest and sleep, which but thy
 pictures be,
 Much pleasure, then from thee, much more
 must flow."