

2023

( 5th Semester )

ELECTIVE ENGLISH

Paper No. : ELENG-501

( **Literary Criticism** )

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 45%

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions briefly : 2×6=12

- (a) Briefly discuss Plato's theory of imitation.
- (b) What are the qualifications of a poet according to Ben Jonson?
- (c) Write a brief note on Wordsworth's theory of poetic diction.
- (d) Briefly discuss Wordsworth's views on Metre.
- (e) How does the creative power work according to Matthew Arnold?
- (f) Why does Arnold consider the 'personal estimate' and the 'historic estimate' as false standards of judgement?

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2. Answer the following questions : 10×3=30

(a) (i) Write an essay on Dryden's contribution to English criticism.

Or

(ii) Discuss the various schools of criticism that emerged during the age of interrogation.

(b) (i) Wordsworth's *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads* marks a crucial turning point in the way critics look at poetry. Summarize the salient features of Wordsworth's criticism.

Or

(ii) For Wordsworth, "a poet differs from other men because he is endowed with more lively sensibility, more enthusiasm and tenderness". Elucidate.

(c) (i) Arnold believes that criticism must be 'disinterested and unconcerned with practice'. What does he mean? Give reasons for your answer.

Or

(ii) Estimate Matthew Arnold as a critic with reference to the function of criticism at the present time.

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( Continued )

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3. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following poem commenting on its theme and style : 14

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies;  
And all that's best of dark and bright  
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;  
Thus mellowed to that tender light  
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.  
One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impaired the nameless grace,  
Which waves in every raven tress,  
Or softly lightens o'er her face;  
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,  
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,  
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,  
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,  
But tell of days in goodness spent,  
A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent!

4. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following passage commenting on its content and style : 14

Okay, I have to write something. My essay is due in an hour and I have no idea where to start.

I hear the trickling of Mark's pencil, Josie's constant throat-clearing, and a bird. I look out the classroom window. The sky is heavy

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( Turn Over )

with clouds. What's a bird doing in this weather? The sycamore's branches bend as if pulled down by invisible strings.

Still, the mockingbird is out on a limb—no, literally!—Singing with his surprisingly loud voice.

If I were him, I would be quieter, as to not draw attention to myself. I mean, his feathers are dull-brown color, his beak doesn't look like anything, and he can't even come up with his own tune. If he were a human being, he would probably go to jail for plagiarism. Yet, he sings at the top of his tiny lungs, which are probably the size of a corn kernel when full of air. How can he be so loud?

I try to look away from the window, but my gaze keeps coming back. I will be in so much trouble when the teacher collects the sheets and reads all this nonsense!

My thoughts wander. What makes this bird special is that he's not. You cannot find a plainer, less interesting, more unattractive bird than that. But boy, he can sing, and he knows what he's capable of. He invests all his heart in it, despite of what others may say.

Something just clicked. I know what my essay will be about. I crumple my paper and start a new sheet.

I write nonstop for half an hour and hand it in. I hope I get an A+ on my essay about Susan Boyle!

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