

# BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME

## Term-End Examination

June, 2008

### ELECTIVE COURSE : ENGLISH

### EEG-6 : UNDERSTANDING POETRY

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

**Note :** Section A is **compulsory**. Answer any three questions in Section B.

#### SECTION A

1. Explain any **four** of the following passages with reference to the context supplying brief critical comments where necessary : 4×7=28

- (a) When wasteful war shall statues overturn,  
And broils root out the work of masonry,  
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn  
The living record of your memory.
- (b) Was it a vision, or a waking dream ?  
Fled is that music: — do I wake or sleep ?

- (c) An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Has chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.
- (d) . . . and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.
- (e) Exult, O shores, and ring, O bells!  
But I, with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.
- (f) But do not blame my blood  
So thin, so clear, so fine  
The oldest blood in the world  
That remembers as it flows  
All the gems and all the gold  
And all the perfumes and the oils  
And the stately  
Elephant ride . . .

2. Scan **one** of the following passages and comment on its prosodic feature :

6

- (a) My days among the Dead are passed;

Around me I behold,

Where'er these casual eyes are cast,

The mighty minds of old:

- (b) Touch her not scornfully;

Think of her mournfully,

Gently and humanly;

Not of the stains of her —

All that remains of her

Now is pure womanly.

3. Write brief notes, illustrating your points with the help of examples, on any **two** of the following :

3+3=6

satire,

symbolism,

caesura,

spenserian

stanza,

eye rhyme

## SECTION B

Answer any **three** questions. Each question carries 20 marks.

4. Examine 'Lycidas' as a pastoral elegy.
5. Comment on Alexander Pope's use of (a) the heroic couplet, and (b) the mock-heroic in *The Rape of the Lock*.
6. Discuss 'Tintern Abbey' as an autobiographical poem.
7. How do Tennyson's descriptions of scenes help the narration in 'The Lady of Shalott' ?
8. Assess W.H. Auden as a modernist poet.
9. Critically appreciate Poe's poem 'The Raven'.
10. Compare the poetic art of Sarojini Naidu with that of Kamala Das.