

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2018

M.A. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGM (215)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Question No. 1 is compulsory carrying 40 marks.
Answer two other questions carrying 30 marks each.

1. Write a critical response to the following poem, *Even the Rain* by Agha Shahid Ali, commenting on its form, language, imagery, cultural context, and ideas :

What will suffice for a true-love knot? Even the rain?
But he has bought grief's lottery, bought even the rain.

"our glosses/wanting in this world" "Can you remember?"
Anyone! "when we thought/the poets taught" even the rain?

After we died—That was it!—God left us in the dark.
And as we forgot the dark, we forgot even the rain.

Drought was over. Where was I? Drinks were on the house.
For mixers, my love, you'd poured—what?—even the rain.

Of this pear-shaped orange's perfumed twist, I will say:
Extract Vermouth from the bergamot, even the rain.

How did the Enemy love you—with earth? air? and fire?
He held just one thing back till he got even: the rain.

This is God's site for a new house of executions?
You swear by the Bible, Despot, even the rain?

After the bones—those flowers—this was found in the urn:
The lost river, ashes from the ghat, even the rain.

What was I to prophesy if not the end of the world?
A salt pillar for the lonely Lot, even the rain.

How the air raged, desperate, streaming the earth with flames—
to help burn down my house, Fire sought even the rain.

He would raze the mountains, he would level the waves,
he would, to smooth his epic plot, even the rain.

New York belongs at daybreak to only me, just me—
to make this claim Memory's brought even the rain.

They've found the knife that killed you, but whose prints are these?
No one has such small hands, Shahid, not even the rain.

2. (a) Do you think the notion of an integral self or the essentialist conception of identity is undermined by social, economic, and political developments in Early Modern England? Discuss with reference to any two Jacobean plays of your choice.

Or

- (b) What was novel about the novel? Comment on the rise of a purportedly new form of book-length fiction in prose, called the 'novel', in the long eighteenth century, with reference to any two novels of your choice.

3. (a) How have classical literatures, European and non-European, influenced the themes and forms of modern literature in English? Answer with reference to any genre of 20th century English Literature.

Or

- (b) Is Modernism anti-Romantic? Discuss the relationship between these two movements in English literature—Modernism and Romanticism—with reference to texts from both, to substantiate your argument.

4. (a) Examine the concept of 'play' that Jacques Derrida sets forth in his works, and discuss its relevance to human sciences today.

Or

- (b) Examine the concept of 'structure of feeling' that Raymond Williams expounds in his works, and discuss its relevance to literary and cultural studies today.

5. (a) Queer theory is often thought to have grown out of feminist theory. Discuss what they have in common and in what they differ, citing texts as examples to support your answer.

Or

- (b) The digital age has led to the emergence of new literary forms that have radically redefined the status of the reader from being an interpreter of textual meaning to that of a creator of texts. Answer with reference to fanfiction or any other 'new' form of contemporary literature.

6. Write explanatory short notes on any *two* of the following :

- (a) Two Different forms of the Sonnet
- (b) Interior Monologue
- (c) Imagism
- (d) First-wave Feminism
- (e) Decolonizing the Mind
- (f) Nativism and Literature
- (g) Progressive Writers' Movement in India
- (h) Dalit Autobiography as Testimony
