

**St. Joseph's Evening College (Autonomous)**  
**MA English: II Semester Examinations March/April 2018**  
**British Literature II**

**Time: 2 ½ hours**

**Marks: 70**

**Instructions**

Answer all questions as specified  
You are allowed to use a dictionary

**I. Answer ANY TWO of the questions given below in about 200 words each:  
(2x10=20 marks)**

1. Comment on the world-views offered by Tennyson and Arnold using the poems you have studied. What elements in these poems allow us to see these writers as embodying the Victorian age?
2. What, according to you, are the three distinguishing features that separate Romanticism from the Neo-Classical age?
3. What are some of the common concerns that seem to define the Augustan era?

**II. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 250 words each:  
(2x15=30)**

1. "In seeking to attack the problem of slavery, Aphra Behn commits the error of representing her hero as a stereotypically noble savage" Do you agree with this reading of Oroonoko? Explain your agreement or disagreement.
2. Examine the use of the terms Vision, Dream and Fragment in the sub-title to Coleridge's Kubla Khan. How do these terms allow us to see Coleridge's idea of imagination at work?
3. What does the essay achieve that is distinct from poetry and fiction? Use the essays you have read to substantiate your argument.
4. Examine the idea that the ode offers the opportunity for a public conversation using insights from the poems you have read.
5. How does Elizabeth Barrett-Browning's use of the sonnet exemplify the situation of a woman writer having to master a male-defined form and literary language to find a way of expressing desire?

**III. Pick ANY TWO of the extracts given below and answer the questions provided in about ten sentences each: (2x5=10 marks)**

**EXTRACT A**

I choose  
Never to stoop. Oh, sir, she smiled, no doubt,  
Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without  
Much the same smile? This grew; I gave commands;  
Then all smiles stopped together.

**Identify the text and its author. Comment on the use of the word 'stoop' in the second line—what does it reveal about the speaker? Is it possible to sympathise with him? Explain?**

**EXTRACT B**

They are made a good deal in the manner of the Dutch Coaches, having wooden Lattices painted and gilded, the inside being painted with baskets and nosegays of Flowers, entermix'd commonly with little poetical mottos. They are cover'd all over with scarlet cloth, lin'd with silk and very often richly embroider'd and fring'd. This covering entirely hides the persons in them, but may be thrown back at pleasure and the Ladys peep through the Lattices.

**Identify the text and its author. What does the term 'they' refer to in this passage? Pick a phrase which highlights the author's powers of observation.**

**EXTRACT C**

I will drink  
Life to the lees: All times I have enjoy'd  
Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those  
That loved me, and alone, on shore,

**Identify the text and its author. Identify and explain the figure of speech in the line "I will drink life to the lees". What distinction does he seem to make between the two worlds he has known in this extract?**

**IV. Read the poem given below and attempt an interpretation in about 150-200 words. What significant shift can you spot between the octave and the sestet? (10 marks)**

Earth has not anything to show more fair:  
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by  
A sight so touching in its majesty:

This City now doth, like a garment, wear  
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,  
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie  
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;  
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.  
Never did sun more beautifully steep  
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;  
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!  
The river glideth at his own sweet will:  
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;  
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

--William Wordsworth