

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

MA 1st Sem. Examination, 2014

Paper - 03

English Poetry from Chaucer to the Neoclassical

Time : 3 Hrs.

Full Marks : 80

1. Answer any five of the following questions (each within 50 words) 2×5 = 10
 - (a) Mention the significant contribution of Chaucer to English language and literature.
 - (b) *The Prologue to The Canterbury Tales* have been called a concise portrait of a society. Discuss.
 - (c) Bring out the distinctive features of the Shakespearean sonnet. Does it differ from the Petrarchan form?
 - (d) Eliot used the term 'unified sensibility' to describe Metaphysical Poetry. Discuss the significant features of this poetic school.
 - (e) Briefly describe the classical epic as a literary form. Give examples.
 - (f) How does Dryden unite the Biblical themes with the contemporary political situation in the poem "Absalom and Achitophel".
 - (g) Pope believed that poetry should serve human ends, do you think that he was successful in serving society through his poetry?

2. Answer any three questions from the following (each within 100 words) 4×3 = 12
 - (a) Mention the religious characters in the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* and discuss how they reflect the growing corruption and degeneration of the Church.
 - (b) Discuss the poem "The Sun Rising" as a typical metaphysical poem.
 - (c) Critically analyse the character of Satan as an important figure in Milton's *Paradise Lost*.
 - (d) Dryden reflects the political upheavals during the reign of Charles II through the poem "Absalom and Achitophel". Discuss.
 - (e) How does Pope Satirise the hypocrisy and artifice of the aristocratic class through his poem "The Rape of the Lock"?

3. Explain with reference to the context any three of the following (each within 250 words) 6×3 = 18
 - (a) O fearful meditation! Where alack,
Shall Time's least jewel from Time's
chest lie hid?
 - (b) Why swellest thou then?
One short sleep past we wake
eternally,
And Death shall be no more.
Death thou shalt die.
 - (c) Fallen cherub, to be weak is
miserable
Doing or suffering : but of this be
sure
To do aught good never well

he our task,
But ever to do ill our sole
delight.

(d) Of all this numerous progeney
was none
So beautiful, so frame as
Absolom.

(e) In tasks so fold, can little
men engage,
And in soft bosoms dwells
such mighty rage?

4. Answer any four questions (limit your answer to 400 word each) 10×4 = 40
- (a) Chaucer was one of the greatest comic writers in English literature. Discuss certain comic characters of Chaucer from the 'Prologue'.
 - (b) How does Shakespeare integrate the themes of love, art, time and spirituality in the two sonnets prescribed for you?
 - (c) Analyse the technique and philosophy in the religious and love poetry of Donne.
 - (d) Would you agree to the view that in *Paradise Lost* Milton seeks to justify God's ways to mankind?
 - (e) Describe one or two characters from *Absalom and Achitophel* to bring out Dryden's art of character creation.
 - (f) Critically analyse the Mock heroic elements in Pope's "Rape of the Lock".

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