



UPSC MAINS

Union Public Service Commission

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UPSC IAS Mains
2017
Exam Question
Paper

Literature Optional Subjects

English (Paper - 1)

CS (MAIN) Exam : 2017

वियोज्य DETACHABLE

ENGLISH
Paper I
(LITERATURE)

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions.

There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **TWO SECTIONS**.

Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all.

Question Nos. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** from each Section.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in **ENGLISH**.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

SECTION 'A'

1. Write short notes on each of the following. Each question should be answered in about 150 words. 10×5=50
- 1.(a) The influence of Renaissance on at least two plays of Shakespeare? 10
- 1.(b) The revival of the classical spirit in Neoclassical poetry. 10
- 1.(c) The impact of the French Revolution on English Romantic Poets. 10
- 1.(d) The reasons for the rise of the novels in the eighteenth century 10
- 1.(e) The industrial revolution and Victorian novels. 10
2. Answer all of the following :
- 2.(a) Comment on the theme of redemption and madness in Shakespeare's *King Lear*. 15
- 2.(b) Sketch the character of Prospero in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the light of the larger context of his power and love of magic to persuade others into behaving in ways he wants them to behave. 20
- 2.(c) "The poetry of John Donne juxtaposes physical love with the sacredness of religion through a series of occult resemblances". Examine with reference to the poems, prescribed in your syllabus. 15
3. Answer all of the following :
- 3.(a) Milton states that his poem will pursue "Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme". Why did Milton consider his poem superior to those of Homer and Virgil? Show the superiority of his subject matter with special reference to the subject matter of Book I of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. 15
- 3.(b) Critically examine Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* as a satire on the fashionable beautiful aristocratic ladies of the eighteenth century. 20
- 3.(c) "Wordsworth's poetry exhibits romantic characteristics and for his treatment towards romantic elements, he stands supreme and he can be termed a Romantic poet for a number of reasons". Examine some of his poems, prescribed in your syllabus. 15
4. Answer all of the following :
- 4.(a) How far does *In Memoriam* reflect the spirit of the Victorian age? 15

- 4.(b) Is *A Doll's House* a mere problem play ? Or does it reflect the 'crisis of human relationships' ? Give reasons for your answers. 20
- 4.(c) Contrast life in Hell and in Heaven as described in Book II and Book III of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. 15

SECTION 'B'

5. Study the following poem and answer all the questions which follow. Each answer should be in around 60-80 words. 10×5=50

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look,
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how love fled,
And paced upon the mountains overhead,
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

- 5.(a) How does the poet evoke the images of his beloved in the first stanza ? 10
- 5.(b) What sort of person, do you think, is the speaker of the poem ? 10
- 5.(c) How does the poet help the reader understand the theme of his poem through skillful use of diction and concrete language ? 10
- 5.(d) How does the poet present a portrait of decaying and dying youth and beauty ? 10
- 5.(e) Comment on the poet's use of passionate, evocative and expressive vocabulary. 10
6. Answer all of the following :
- 6.(a). "The surface of the book (*Gulliver's Travels*) is comic but at its centre there is tragedy". Elucidate with reference to *Gulliver's Travels*. 15
- 6.(b) Jane Austin is a critical observer who uses irony as a means of 'moral and social judgement'. Examine *Pride and Prejudice* in the light of this statement. 20
- 6.(c) Explore the theme of charity in Fielding's *Tom Jones*. How does Fielding emphasize this theme by contrast ? 15

7. Answer all of the following :

7.(a) How does Charles Dickens attack the typical ideology of the contemporary education in England and satirize the utilitarian philosophy of education in *Hard Times*. 15

7.(b) Discuss the role of the narrator in George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*. What values does the narrator uphold ? 20

7.(c) Comment on the theme of the old social order versus the new in Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. 15

8. Answer all of the following :

8.(a) Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is more than a straightforward story about a boy and a runaway slave floating down the Mississippi River. What are the serious issues it addresses ? 15

8.(b) Mention the ways in which Swift gets the reader to accept the fantastical people, places and phenomena in *Gulliver's Travels*. 20


8.(c) "The women in Jane Austin's novels are more life-like than the men". How far is this comment applicable to Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*. 15

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