

(6 pages)

S.No. 9155

RMENS 2

(For candidates admitted from 2005–2006 onwards)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023.

English

RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

1. Annotate any FIVE of the following choosing not more than Three from each Section: (5 × 4 = 20)

SECTION — A

- (a) O Earth, how like to Heav'n, if not preferr'd
More justly, Seat worthier of Gods, as built
With second thoughts, reforming what was
old!
For what God after better worse would
build?
- (b) Go; for thy stay, not free, absents thee more:
Go in thy native innocence, relie
On what thou hast of vertue, summon all,
For God towards thee hath done his part, do
thine.

- (c) Else, why should he, with wealth and honour
blest,
Refuse his age the needful hours of rest?
Punish a body which he could not please:
Bankrupt of life, yet prodigal of ease?
- (d) Railing and praising were his usual themes;
And both (to show his judgment) in
extremes:
So over violent, or over civil,
That every man, with him, was god or devil.

SECTION — B

- (e) Of all mad creatures, if the learn'd are right,
It is the slaver kills, and not the bite.
A fool quite angry is quite innocent;
Alas! 'tis ten times worse when they repent.
- (f) Pretty! in amber to observe the forms
Of hairs, or straws, or dirt, or grubs, or
worms;
The things, we know, are neither rich nor
rare,
But wonder how the devil they got there?

- (g) This malignant liquor was compounded, by the engineer who invented it, of two ingredients, which are, gall and copperas; by its bitterness and venom to suit, in some degree, as well as to foment, the genius of the combatants.
- (h) He had been of late most barbarously treated by a strange effect of the regent's humanity, who had torn off his title-page, sorely defaced one half of his leaves, and chained him fast among a shelf of Moderns.
2. Explicate any ONE of the following passages, commenting on its structure, texture, tone, and meaning: $(1 \times 10 = 10)$

- (a) Serpent, thy overpraising leaves in doubt
The venue of that Fruit, in thee first prov'd:
But say, where grows the Tree, from hence
how far?
For many are the Trees of God that grow
In Paradise, and various, yet unknown
To us, in such abundance lies our choice,
As leaves a greater store of Fruit untoucht,
Still hanging incorruptible, till men
Grow up to thir provision, and more hands
Help to disburden Nature of her Bearth.

- (b) For anything else of genuine that the Moderns may pretend to, I cannot recollect; unless it be a large vein of wrangling and satire, much of a nature and substance with the spiders' poison; which, however they pretend to spit wholly out of themselves, is improved by the same arts, by feeding upon the insects and vermin of the age. As for us, the Ancients, we are content with the bee, to pretend to nothing of our own beyond our wings and our voice: that is to say, our flights and our language. For the rest, whatever we have got has been by infinite labour and search, and ranging through every corner of nature; the difference is, that, instead of dirt and poison, we have rather chosen to till our hives with honey and wax; thus furnishing mankind with the two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light."

3. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 200 words each, choosing ONE from each Section: (2 × 15 = 30)

Section — A

- (a) Analyze the role of free will in *Paradise Lost* Book IX.
- (b) Comment on the significance of the Library as a setting for the battle in *The Battle of the Books*.
- (c) How does Dryden employ wit and irony in *Absalom and Achitophel*?

Section — B

- (d) Comment on the mystic elements in Blake's poetry.
- (e) How does Collins' Odes celebrate nature?
- (f) Discuss the transformation of Pamela.

4. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 800 words each, choosing ONE from each Section: (2 × 20 = 40)

Section — A

- (a) Discuss the literary allusions in Pope's "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot."
- (b) How does Swift use to convey his message about the conflict between ancient and modern learning in *The Battle of the Books*?
- (c) Explore the consequences of disobedience in *Paradise Lost* Book IX.

Section — B

- (d) How does Sheridan wittily exhibit the machinations of the hypocritical Joseph Surface in *The School for Scandal*?
- (e) Discuss the themes of disguise and deception in *The Vicar of Wakefield*.
- (f) Examine *The Pilgrim's Progress* a religious allegory.