

Ba/El Eng-501 (Sup)

2022

( 5th Semester )

**ELECTIVE ENGLISH**

Paper No. : ELENG-501

**( Literary Criticism )**

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 45%

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks  
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions briefly :  $2 \times 6 = 12$

(a) Compare and contrast the views of Plato and Aristotle on the nature and function of poetry.

(b) Write a short note on Quintilian's theory of style.

(c) What, according to Wordsworth, is the relationship between poetry and science?

(d) Write a note on Wordsworth's view on function of poetry.

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( Turn Over )

- (e) Comment on Arnold's opinion on 'grand style' in poetry.
- (f) Why does Arnold consider the 'personal estimate' and the 'historic estimate' as false standards of judgement?

2. Answer the following questions : 10×3=30

- (a) (i) Critically examine Aristotle's definition of tragedy. What, according to him, are the formative elements of a tragedy?

Or

- (ii) Give a critical estimate of Sir Philip Sidney as a critic with reference to his arguments in his *An Apology for Poetry*.
- (b) Attempt a critique of Wordsworth's theory of Poetic Creation.
- (c) Estimate Matthew Arnold as a critic with reference to the *Function of Criticism at the Present Time*.

3. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following poem commenting on the theme and style :

14

When I consider how my light is spent  
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,  
And that one talent which is death to hide

Lodged with me useless, though my soul  
more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present  
My true account, lest He returning chide,—  
Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?  
I fondly ask; but Patience, to prevent  
That murmur, soon replies, God doth not need  
Either man's work, or His own gifts; who best  
Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best,  
His state  
Is kingly; thousands at His bidding speed  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest:—  
They also serve who only stand and wait.

4. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following passage commenting on its content and style : 14

As the sun rose, a dewdrop became aware of its surroundings. There it sat on a leaf, catching the sunlight and throwing it back out. Proud of its simple beauty, it was very content. Around it were other dewdrops, some on the same leaf and some on other leaves round about. The dewdrop was sure that it was the best, the most special dewdrop of them all.

Ah, it was good to be a dewdrop. The wind rose and the plant began to shake, tipping

the leaf. Terror gripped the dewdrop as gravity pulled it towards the edge of the leaf, towards the unknown. Why? Why was this happening? Things were comfortable, things were safe. Why did they have to change? Why? Why?

The dewdrop reached the edge of the leaf. It was terrified, certain that it would be smashed into a thousand pieces below, sure that this was the end. The day had only just begun and the end had come so quickly. It seemed so unfair. It seemed so meaningless. It tried desperately to do whatever it could to cling to the leaf, but it was no use.

Finally, it let go, surrendering to the pull of gravity. Down, down it fell. Below there seemed to be a mirror. A reflection of itself seemed to be coming up to meet the dewdrop, closer and closer they came together until finally...

And then the fear transformed into deep joy as the tiny dewdrop merged with the vastness that was the pond. Now the dewdrop was no more, but it was not destroyed. It had become one with the whole.

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