



Department of Social Sciences

M.A. (Final) Examination, 2016

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper-III

Twentieth Century Literature: Prose & Fiction

Model Paper: 1

Time: 3 hour

Marks: 100 marks

Attempt 5 questions in all, selecting at least one question from each section. Question 1 is compulsory. All questions carry equal marks.

Q1. Explain with reference to context any four of the following extracts, adding critical notes where necessary: 10*4=40

- a) After the blasting has been done the 'fillers' can tumble the coal out, break it up and shovel it on to the conveyor belt. It comes out first in monstrous boulders which may weigh anything up to twenty tons. The conveyor belt shoots it on to tubs, and the tubs are shoved into the main road and hitched on to an endlessly revolving steel cable which drags them to the cage. Then they are hoisted, and at the surface the coal is sorted by being run over screens, and if necessary is washed as well. As far as possible the 'dirt' — the shale, that is — is used for making the roads below. All what cannot be used is sent to the surface and dumped; hence the monstrous 'dirt-heaps', like hideous grey mountains, which are the characteristic scenery of the coal areas. When the coal has been extracted to the depth to which the machine has cut, the coal face has advanced by five feet. Fresh props are put in to hold up the newly exposed roof, and during the next shift the conveyor belt is taken to pieces, moved five feet forward and re-assembled. As far as possible the three operations of cutting, blasting and extraction are done in three separate shifts, the cutting in the afternoon, the blasting at night (there is a law, not always kept, that forbids its being done when other men are working near by), and the 'filling' in the morning shift, which lasts from six in the morning until half past one.
- b) In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defence of the indefensible. Things like the continuance of British rule in India, the Russian purges and deportations, the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan, can indeed be defended, but

only by arguments which are too brutal for most people to face, and which do not square with the professed aims of the political parties. Thus political language has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness. Defenceless villages are bombarded from the air, the inhabitants driven out into the countryside, the cattle machine-gunned, the huts set on fire with incendiary bullets: this is called pacification. Millions of peasants are robbed of their farms and sent trudging along the roads with no more than they can carry: this is called transfer of population or rectification of frontiers. People are imprisoned for years without trial, or shot in the back of the neck or sent to die of scurvy in Arctic lumber camps: this is called elimination of unreliable elements. Such phraseology is needed if one wants to name things without calling up mental pictures of them. Consider for instance some comfortable English professor defending Russian totalitarianism. He cannot say outright, 'I believe in killing off your opponents when you can get good results by doing so'.

- c) I had halted on the road. As soon as I saw the elephant I knew with perfect certainty that I ought not to shoot him. It is a serious matter to shoot a working elephant – it is comparable to destroying a huge and costly piece of machinery – and obviously one ought not to do it if it can possibly be avoided. And at that distance, peacefully eating, the elephant looked no more dangerous than a cow. I thought then and I think now that his attack of "must" was already passing off; in which case he would merely wander harmlessly about until the mahout came back and caught him. Moreover, I did not in the least want to shoot him. I decided that I would watch him for a little while to make sure that he did not turn savage again, and then go home.
- d) The taming of domestic animals, especially the cow and the sheep, must have made life much pleasanter and more secure. Some anthropologists have an attractive theory that the utility of domestic animals was not foreseen, but that people attempted to tame whatever animal their religion taught them to worship. The tribes that worshiped lions and crocodiles died out, while those to whom the cow or the sheep was a sacred animal prospered. I like this theory, and in the entire absence of evidence, for or against it, I feel at liberty to play with it.
- e) But although passions have had more to do than beliefs with what is amiss in human life, yet beliefs, especially where they are ancient and systematic and embodied in organizations, have a great power of delaying desirable changes of opinion and of influencing in the wrong direction people who otherwise would have no strong feelings either way. Since my subject is 'Ideas that have Harmed Mankind,' it is especially harmful systems of beliefs that I shall consider.
- f) Our happiness seems to require self esteem, which is bolstered by beliefs that our nation, race, creed, gender, region, and mode of employment are superior. We even think that human beings are the purpose of creation. These beliefs allow us to face the world. We could do without them if we really accepted the sentiment of equality, but we do not.

Section A

1) Discuss "Inside the whale in detail". 20

OR

2) What adverse effect Politics has caused on English Language? Discuss G.Orwell as an essayist. 20

OR

3) Write the bio sketch of Bertand Russell. How Russell explained pride and racism harmed mankind? 20

OR

4) Which ideas in the essay according to you have actually benefited and harmed mankind the most? 20

Section B

1) What Is the Theme in The Rainbow by D. H. Lawrence? Discuss the characters of Tom and Lydia. 20

OR

2) Explain the following lines from The Rainbow: "They felt the rush of the sap in spring, they knew the wave which cannot halt, but every year throws forward the seed in begetting, and, falling back.

OR

3) How Cranly is different than Stephen? Elaborate Stephen's attitude to woman in "A portrait of the Artist as a young man" 20

Section C

1) What makes the "Time Passes" section so different from the rest of the novel? Why do you think Woolf chose such an unusual narrative approach for this section? 20

OR

2) Write a bio-sketch of Angela Carter. Discuss how Carter through her writing fits into the time, beginning to "represent how women have a conflicted relationship with their production as feminine subjects"? 20

OR

3) What cultural questions or issues are established in The Magic Toyshop?

OR

- 4) Conventional gender roles and more broadly, conventional social roles present a major subject of exploration in *To the Lighthouse*. Choose three characters and describe how each approaches this subject. Do gender roles play a part in the lives of the younger children? 20

OR

- 5) Some critics have argued that Melanie seeks refuge from one man in the arms of another, by running away with Finn she is continuing the power of patriarchy. Discuss. 20