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2 SEM FYUGP ENGC 2

2026

(May/June)

ENGLISH

(Core)

Paper : ENGC-2

**(British Poetry and Drama :
17th to 18th Century)**

Full Marks : 60 (80 for 2023 Batch)

Time : 2½ hours (3 hours for 2023 Batch)

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

UNIT—I

(Literary Background)

1. Answer any *one* of the following : 10

- (a) Examine the Puritan attitude towards poetry and drama. Why did the Puritans oppose the theatre, and how did this opposition affect English literary culture?

- (b) "Restoration comedy reflects the manners and morals of contemporary society." Discuss this statement with reference to Restoration comedy of manners.
- (c) Discuss the role of wit, satire, and realism in Restoration literature.
- (d) Discuss the literary characteristics of the Interregnum period. How did political and religious conditions influence literary production during this time?
- (e) Examine how religious beliefs influenced literary themes and forms in the 17th century.

UNIT—II

(Puritan Epic)

2. Answer any one of the following : 10

- (a) Analyze the character of Satan in Book I of Milton's *Paradise Lost*. How does Milton establish the theme, scope, and moral purpose of the poem?

- (b) "In writing *Paradise Lost*, Milton was of the Devil's party without knowing it." Comment on this view, keeping in mind the Book I of *Paradise Lost*.
- (c) What is epic simile? Show the appropriateness and effectiveness of the epic similes used by Milton in Book I of *Paradise Lost*.
3. Explain, with reference to the context, any one of the following : 5
- (a) "To reign is worth ambition though
in Hell :
Better to reign in Hell, than serve
in Heaven."
- (b) "... What though the field be lost?
All is not lost; the unconquerable Will,
And study of revenge, immortal hate,
And courage never to submit or yield :
And what is else not to be overcome?"
- (c) "Fallen Cherube, to be weak is miserable
Doing or Suffering : but of this be sure,
To do ought good never will be our task,
But ever to do ill our sole delight,
As being the contrary to his high will
Whom we resist."

4. Answer any one of the following : 5

- (a) Attempt a brief description of Hell in Milton's *Paradise Lost*.
- (b) Briefly discuss Satan's first speech in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.
- (c) Comment on the central theme of *Paradise Lost*, Book I.

UNIT—III

(Jacobean Drama)

5. Answer any one of the following : 10

- (a) "*The Duchess of Malfi* is a powerful critique of patriarchal and aristocratic society." Discuss this statement with reference to the treatment of women, marriage and power in the play.
- (b) Discuss *The Duchess of Malfi* as a tragedy of a noble woman. Examine how the Duchess' character, choices and suffering contribute to the tragic effect of the play.

- (c) Analyze the character of the Duchess as a blend of courage, dignity and moral strength. How does she stand apart from other characters in the play?

6. Answer any one of the following : 5

- (a) Comment on the dramatic importance of the Duchess' death scene.
- (b) Discuss the portrayal of gender roles in *The Duchess of Malfi*.
- (c) Compare and contrast the characters of Ferdinand and The Cardinal.

UNIT—IV

(Neoclassical/Augustan Mock Epic)

7. Answer any one of the following : 10

- (a) Discuss the theme and purpose of satire in *MacFlecknoe*. What aspects of Shadwell's personality and literary ability does Dryden attack?

- (b) Examine the use of mock-heroic style in *MacFlecknoe*. How does Dryden adapt epic devices for satirical effect?
- (c) Critically comment on the dramatic significance of the Coronation Ceremony of *MacFlecknoe*.

8. Answer any *one* of the following :

5

- (a) Comment on the form and technique of *MacFlecknoe*.
- (b) Elaborate Dryden's use of humour in *MacFlecknoe*.
- (c) Analyze the character of Shadwell as presented in *MacFlecknoe*.

(Additional 20 Marks for 2023 Batch)

9. Answer any *two* of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) Critically examine the qualities of Milton's Satan from Book I of *Paradise Lost*.
- (b) Discuss, with reference to Book I of *Paradise Lost*, the various elements which combine to form the grand style of Milton.

- (c) Write a note on the contemporary court life as depicted in *The Duchess of Malfi*.
- (d) *MacFlecknoe* both a personal attack and a comment on literary degeneration. Discuss.
