

Question Bank – Department of English
(Compiled by Ms. Bar Barnini Panda)

CC I

Long Questions

1. Write a critical note on Sonnet 34 of the *Amoretti* cycle by Edmund Spenser.
2. What type of love is Edmund Spenser writing about in *Amoretti* Sonnet 34, "Like as a Ship"?
3. What is the theme of Shakespeare's Sonnet 73?
4. What does the speaker in Sonnet 73 compare himself to? What do these comparisons have in common?
5. Describe in detail the imagery of Sonnet 73 by Shakespeare.
6. What is the tone in the poem "Song: To Celia"?
7. How is love treated in Ben Jonson's poem "Song to Celia"?
8. Discuss the features of metaphysical poetry in "The Sun Rising".
9. In "The Sun Rising," Donne presents love as a microcosm of the universe. Discuss.

Short Questions

1. In Sonnet 73, why does Shakespeare refer to the black night as death's second self?
2. The source for Sonnet 34 is a Petrarchan sonnet (Rima 189) that ends with the lover in panic and despair. How is Spenser's conclusion different?
3. What is the significance of the rosy wreath in the poem "Song: To Celia"?
4. "She's all states, and all princes, I,
Nothing else is."
Explain these lines from Donne's "The Sun Rising".
5. What is a sonnet? What are the different types of sonnets?
6. How is the Shakespearean sonnet different from the Petrarchan sonnet?
7. Annotate the following lines:

"Yet hope I well that, when this storm is past,
My Helice, the loadstar of my life,
Will shine again, and look on me at last,
With lovely light to clear my cloudy grief",

CC II

Long Questions

1. Evaluate "Lycidas" as a pastoral elegy.
2. How has Milton portrayed grief in "Lycidas"?

3. Comment on the versification of Milton with reference to "Lycidas".
4. What are the classical elements in "Lycidas"?
5. Would you consider "Lycidas" as an allegory? Justify your answer.
6. Discuss the use of allusions in Milton's "Lycidas".
7. The elegy is a conscious work of art and not a spontaneous expression of sorrow. Substantiate this claim with reference to "Lycidas."

Short Questions:

1. Why does Milton label Lycidas as a Monody?
2. What is the meaning of Milton's famous line, "That last infirmity of noble mind"?
3. What do laurels and myrtles stand for in "Lycidas"?
4. What is the significance of St. Peter's speech in "Lycidas"?
5. What is the significance of the story of Orpheus in "Lycidas"?
6. Who are the "sisters of the sacred well"? What is Milton's request to them?
7. Annotate the following lines:
 "For we were nurs'd upon the self-same hill,
 Fed the same flock, by fountain, shade, and rill;"

CC III

Long Questions

1. Write a note on Restoration Literature.
2. Bring out the differences between the literary trends of the Restoration Age and that of the Puritan Age.
3. What are the features of Restoration Comedy? Discuss with examples.
4. Write a note on the Heroic Tragedy of Dryden.
5. Bring out the distinctive features of Neoclassical Literature.
6. Why is the Neoclassical age called the Age of Prose and Reason?
7. Discuss the rise of the novels in the 18th century.
8. Write a note on the Age of Sensibility

Short Questions

1. Write a short note on the rise of Whigs and Tories.
2. Write a short note on the social and political scenario during the Restoration period.
3. Write a short note on the Glorious Revolution.
4. Explain the term 'neoclassical' with reference to the literature of the 17th and 18th centuries.
5. Write a note on mock-heroic poem.
6. Discuss the coffee house culture of the 18th century.

7. Write a note on the use of poetic diction by the neoclassical poets.

CC V

Long Questions

1. Discuss Wordsworth's theory of poetry as presented in Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*.
2. What is the subject matter of poetry according to Wordsworth?
3. Discuss Wordsworth's views on poetic diction in his Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*.
4. Discuss Wordsworth's Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* as a manifesto of Romanticism.
5. What does Wordsworth think of the distinction between the language of prose and metrical composition? Why?
6. What are some of the characteristics of the poet? What is his relationship to his "own passions and volitions"?
7. "The poet does not differ from men in kind but in degree." Explain the position of the poet vis-a-vis the common man as explained by Wordsworth in his Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*.

Short Questions

1. Explain Wordsworth's idea of poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling".
2. How does Wordsworth describe the language he claims to have selected for his poems?
3. Why does Wordsworth choose "a selection of language really used by men" for his poems?
4. What reason does Wordsworth give for writing the preface?
5. What is the difference, if any, between the language of prose and poetry according to Wordsworth?
6. What, according to Wordsworth, is the difference between the man of science and the poet?
7. What justification does Wordsworth provide for using meter in his poetry?

CC VI

Long Questions

1. Write a critical appreciation of "Break, Break, Break" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson?
2. How does the poem "Break, Break, Break" show that life and nature go on despite what happens to human beings?
3. Discuss Tennyson's "Break, Break, Break" as an elegy.
4. Discuss the poem "My Last Duchess" a dramatic monologue.
5. How is power presented in "My Last Duchess"?

6. Sketch the character of the Duke.
7. How significant is the title of the poem toward our understanding of the Duke and his late wife?
8. Describe Matthew Arnold's idea that "poetry is the criticism of life."
9. Discuss Matthew Arnold's views on characteristics of good poetry.
10. Write a note on Arnold's Touchstone Method.

Short Questions

1. Why does the poet ask the sea waves to break in Tennyson's "Break, Break, Break"?
2. How can we interpret the lines "I gave commands/ Then all smiles stopped forever"?
3. What does the statue of Neptune taming a sea horse represent in "My Last Duchess"?
4. What are Arnold's views on Chaucer as a poet?
5. How does Arnold compare Chaucer and Burns?
6. Write a note on Arnold's historic estimate, personal estimate and real estimate.
7. "Dryden and Pope are not classics of our poetry, they are classics of our prose." Why does Arnold say this in his essay "The Study of Poetry"?

CC VII

Long questions

1. Write a note on World War I and its impact on 20th-century literature.
2. What are the features of 20th-century poetry?
3. Write a note on 20th-century novels.
4. Discuss Marx's theory of class struggle.
5. How does Freud differentiate between id, ego and superego?
6. What are defence mechanisms according to Freud?
7. Discuss the five psychosexual stages as described by Freud.

Short Questions

1. Write a short note on War Poets of World War I.
2. What is 'stream of consciousness'? Discuss with examples.
3. Write a short note on Base and Superstructure.
4. Write a short note on the relationship between the Proletariat and the Bourgeoisie.
5. How does the ego mediate between the id and superego?
6. What are Eros and Thanatos according to Freud?
7. Write a note on the Oedipus complex.
8. What are Freudian slips? Give some examples.

DSE III

Long Questions

1. How is research a systematic or scientific investigation?
2. What are the steps involved in framing and refining a research question?
3. What is a research synopsis? What are its elements?
4. What is a literature review? What is the purpose of doing a literature review?
5. What are primary, secondary, and tertiary sources? Give examples.
6. What do you understand by research design? Discuss its function, features and types.
7. Discuss the different types of data collection tools.
8. What is the difference between Qualitative and Quantitative Research?
9. What is plagiarism? What are the consequences of intentional or unintentional plagiarism?
10. What is the difference between bibliography and citation? Why is referencing important in research?

Short Questions

1. What are the features of a good research question?
2. How does a preliminary literature review help in validating the research question?
3. Write a note on the difference between research methods and research methodology.
4. What is the purpose of a literature review?
5. What are the features of a good literature review?
6. What is a hypothesis in research? Give examples.
7. What is the difference between a questionnaire and a schedule?
8. What is a rating scale? What are its advantages and disadvantages?
9. What is the difference between quoting, paraphrasing and summarizing?
10. What do you understand by plagiarism?