

**West Bengal State University**  
**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2012**  
**PART-II**

**ENGLISH — General**  
**Paper-II**

Duration : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 100

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

1. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
- a) Who are Lamb's 'dream children' ?
  - b) Why does Lynd say that two is a serious age ?
  - c) Why does Benson call the essayist the opposite of the romancer ?
  - d) How did the crowd behave when they saw the rifle in the hand of Orwell ?
  - e) Which of the three books did the boy-hero of *Araby* like most and why ?
  - f) Where did Mrs. Thurlow hide her money ? How much had she saved ?
  - g) What did Macey hand over to the boss ? What was its effect ?
  - h) What did Wilson do with the money that he got after his premature retirement ?
2. Answer any one of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Show how Lamb mixes humour and pathos in his essay *Dream Children*.
  - b) Where did Orwell see the elephant and why did he decide not to shoot it ? What made him change his decision ?

- 6.
- c) Consider Robert Lynd as an essayist with reference to his essay *Seaside*.
- d) How does Benson show that the charm of an essay derives from the charm of the personality of the writer ?
3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Estimate the role of Mr. Woodfield in Katherine Mansfield's, *The Fly*.
- b) *Araby* is a story of both expectation and frustration. Elucidate.
- c) In what ways is the life of Mrs. Thurlow tragic ?
- d) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of Maugham's story *The Lotus Eater*.
4. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) What part does chance and coincidence play in the action of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* ?
- b) Give your impression of the character of Michael Henchard. Is he a tragic hero or a villain ?
- c) Write a note on the characterization of the minor figures in *Oliver Twist*.
- d) Consider *Oliver Twist* as a social document of its time.
5. Explain with reference to the context : 2 × 10 = 20
- i) a) "He wears a mask, and his face grows to fit it."
- OR
- b) "We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence, and a name."
- OR
- c) "The essayist is therefore to a certain extent, bound to be a spectator of life ... "
- ii) a) "Six years ago, six years ... How quickly time passed ! It might have happened yesterday."
- OR
- b) "Her image accompanied me even in places the most hostile to romance."
- OR
- c) "It was a vehicle of necessity. Her relationship to it was that of a beast to a cart."

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below : 4 × 5 = 20

We cannot conceive two men born with the same physical, mental, and moral nature at the same moment under precisely the same conditions, and using the same language. They would be identical; and everything they uttered would be clothed exactly with the same words. The absurdity of this conception brings home to us the second aspect of style. Style is not merely a sign of those national characteristics which are generic to established languages, and which constitute the so-called genius of a race. It is also a sign of personal qualities specific to individuals, which constitute the genius of a man. Whatever a man utters from his heart and head is the index of his character. The more remarkable a person is, the more strongly differentiated he is from the average of human beings, the more salient will be the characteristic notes of expression. But even the common people have, each of them, a specific style. The marks of difference become microscopical as we descend from Dante or Shakespeare to the dredges of the Clerk's desk in one of our cities. Yet these marks exist, and are no less significant of individuality than the variations of leaf and leaf upon the time trees of an avenue.

*Questions :*

- a) What are the two most important elements that make up style ?
- b) Who are the people who express style most distinctively ?
- c) How can a remarkable human being be differentiated from an average being ?
- d) What is not possible for the author to conceive ? What does he want to say ?