

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper - II (Prose and Fiction)

Time allowed : Three hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Unit-I

1. Explain with reference to context any four of the following in about 150-200 words :
- But the other day was marked by an exception to this rule so striking that I have been wondering if perhaps the luck has not changed and I am, after all, destined to be that most enviable thing, a successful dealer.
 - We begin to see significance, or (in other words) to see life, in a large number of traditions, institutions, maxims, and codes of manners that seem in our first days to be dead. A young man grows up in a world that often seems to him intolerably old. He grows up among proverbs and precepts that appear to be quite stiff and senseless.
 - But these shadowy reminiscences of antique credulity which we discover in ourselves play no part in the lives of any of us. They belong to a creed outworn. Superstition was disinherited when science revealed laws of the universe and put man in his place.
 - Let any man, however learned he may think himself, however varied his acquaintance with men, muck, money and the printed word, set down a test of subjects on which he could competently deal. Then let him compare it with the vast, the oceanic, prospect of things of which he knows nothing.
 - "We have built bigger houses, things costing nearly two lakhs. What is this house? It has hardly cost your master a lakh of rupees. It is just little more than an ordinary house, that is all..."
 - First, however the umbrella had to be dealt with and that the disaster should appear irreparable and the case conclusive. From the mantelpiece she took a match, and between the two ribs of the umbrella she burnt a great hole, the size of her hand.
 - They rose when she entered—a small, fat woman in black, with a thin gold chain descending to her waist and vanishing into her belt, leaning on an ebony cane with a tarnished gold head. Her skeleton was small and spare; perhaps that was why what would have been merely plumpness in another was obesity in her.

Unit-II

2. (a) Answer the following questions in about 15-30 words each (any ten):
- What do the stories of Guy De Maupassant deal with mostly?
 - What does, William Somerset Maugham, in his novels and plays

- and short stories like to expose about his characters?
- (iii) In the short story 'The Luncheon' the author says "Then a terrible thing happened." What was that 'Terrible Thing' and why does the author describe it as 'Terrible'?
 - (iv) What were the different jobs that William Faulkner had before he became a writer?
 - (v) When the next generation, with modern ideas became mayors and aldermen the arrangement created with Miss Emily caused some dissatisfaction. What was the arrangement that now caused dissatisfaction?
 - (vi) What comment on the human situation does the story of Valentin bring home?
 - (vii) What two things had impressed the three young girls from British Guiana on their first visit to England?
 - (viii) Mention three advantages of maturity, which sound like comic contradiction?
 - (ix) What does the reference to the 'Prodigal' son in the essay 'On Good Resolutions' suggest?
 - (x) State in a few lines the association A. G. Gardiner makes about the number 13 in his essay.
 - (xi) State briefly what Hilaire Belloc has to say in his essay 'In Praise of Ignorance' about the 'modern system of examination'.
 - (xii) When Valentin was eighteen why did he leave home?
 - (xiii) What effect did the rumour about the barber boy's strike have on the villagers?
 - (xiv) Why does owning property make a person feel 'heavy' according to E. M. Forster?
 - (xv) Define what is 'modernity-snobbery'.
- (b) Answer any two of the following questions in about 150 words each :
- (i) "The first fall of snow is not only an event but it is a magical event." State briefly what J. B. Priestley in his essay 'First Snow' meant by this.
 - (ii) Briefly state what is to be said, according to Robert Lynd, for putting a good resolution into effect now and then.
 - (iii) Why does the narrator in the essay 'Third Thought' first decide to give the dealer five pounds and then later only one pound?

Unit-III

3. Attempt the following questions in not more than 500 words :
State the ideas and thoughts that A. G. Gardiner has on superstitions.

Or

Belloc in his essay 'In Praise of Ignorance' says: 'I Thank God for my Ignorance'. State why a person should be happy about being ignorant.

Or

Huxley in his essay 'Selected Snobberies' states that snobberies 'provoke activity'. Elaborate the idea with examples taken from the text.

Unit-IV

4. What change does the passage of time bring in the fortunes of Valentin the Gardener?

Or

State the social contrasts that Mulk Raj Anand in his story, 'The Barber's Trade Union', brings out between Chandu and his friend, the narrator.

Or
Give a sketch of Madame Oreille's character in the short story 'The Umbrella'.

Unit-V

5. Write a character sketch of Charles Darray.

Or
Duty versus desire is one of the major themes of 'A Tale of Two Cities'. Explain with examples from the novel.

Or
Examine Dickens' use of irony in the novel. What function does it serve?