



UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA  
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CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION  
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FIRST EXAMINATION IN ARTS (EXTERNAL) - April 2017  
ප්‍රථම ශාස්ත්‍ර පරීක්ෂණය (බාහිර) - අප්‍රේල් 2017

**ENG 1.2: Pre-Eighteenth Century English Poetry and Drama**  
Three Hours

Answer **FOUR** questions, choosing at least **ONE** question from **EACH PART**.

**PART A: POETRY**

1. Either

“The pilgrims in ‘The General Prologue’ to *The Canterbury Tales* are representative figures, but Chaucer gives them a remarkable degree of individuality.” Examine Chaucer’s depiction of any two pilgrims in relation to the above statement.

Or

Discuss Chaucer’s chief thematic concerns in either “The Pardoner’s Tale” or “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale.”

2. Douglas Bush has observed that the “value” of Shakespeare’s sonnets lies in “the poet’s distillation [in them] of universal emotions and values.” Examine three of Shakespeare’s sonnets from the standpoint of the above comment.

3. “Donne’s *Songs and Sonets* cover a very wide range of feeling from flippant cynicism to the most tender and even idealistic love.” Discuss, making detailed references to at least two poems of Donne that you have studied.

4. Either

What would you regard as the most significant dimension of Andrew Marvell’s representation of the clash between Charles I and Oliver Cromwel in his poem “An Horatian Ode upon Cromwel’s Return from Ireland”?

Or

“‘To his Coy Mistress’ is both a witty invitation to love and a philosophical discussion of life, death, and time.” Discuss.

5. Evaluate Milton’s depiction of either Eve or Satan in Books IV and IX of *Paradise Lost*.

6. Examine Dryden's satirical aims and achievement in either "Mac Flecknoe" or *Absalom and Achitophel*.
7. Which of the two poems of Robert Burns listed in the syllabus—"My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" and "To a Mouse, on Turning Her Up in Her Nest with the Plough"—appeals to you more? Substantiate your answer through a comparative analysis of the two poems.
8. Either

What can be inferred from Anne Bradstreet's "The Prologue" and "The Author to her Book" about her estimation of her own status and achievement as a woman-poet?

Or

Would you agree that in "The Flesh and the Spirit," the poet, while acknowledging the significance of The Spirit, is more sympathetic towards The Flesh"? Give reasons for your answer.

#### PART B: DRAMA

9. Analyze the techniques that the creator of *Everyman* uses to "infuse dramatic life into a didactic subject."
10. "Some readers/viewers of Marlowe's *Dr Faustus* see its protagonist's damnation at the end of the play as Tragic; others see it as an act of Justice." What is your view? Support your answer with a detailed discussion of the play.
11. Analyze Ben Jonson's treatment, in *Volpone*, of "the double theme of Lust and Greed."
12. Either

"*The Tempest* has far-reaching political implications." Discuss.

Or

"The world of *King Lear* is filled with cruelty, suffering and injustice, but it is not without redeeming elements that may rescue us from despair." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

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