

Total No. of Printed Pages—7

**2 SEM FYUGP ENGC2**

**2025**

( May/June )

**ENGLISH**

( Core )

Paper : ENGC2

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

*Full Marks : 60 (80 for 2023 Batch)*

*Time : 2 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) Discuss the influence of Puritanism on English literature, focusing on its impact on poetry, prose and drama. How did Puritan ideals shape the themes and styles of the period?

- (b) The Restoration period is often associated with the revival of drama and literature. Analyze the characteristics of Restoration literature, highlighting the changes in themes, language and the portrayal of society.
- (c) Examine the development of satire in the Restoration period.
- (d) Discuss in detail the characteristics of the English Drama in the 17th century.
- (e) Satire played a crucial role in Restoration literature, particularly in the works of Dryden and Swift. Discuss how satire was used as a tool for social and political criticism during this period, with relevant examples.

**UNIT—II**  
**( Puritan Epic )**

2. Answer any one of the following : 10

- (a) John Milton's *Paradise Lost* presents Satan as both a heroic and a fallen figure. Critically analyze his character, focusing on his ambition, rhetorical skills and tragic downfall.

- (b) Discuss the theme of obedience and disobedience in *Paradise Lost*.
  - (c) *Paradise Lost* is a deeply theological and philosophical work that examines the nature of good and evil. Analyze how Milton portrays the eternal conflict between God and Satan and its implications for humankind.
3. Explain with reference to the context : 5

The mind is its own place, and in itself  
Can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of  
Heaven.

Or

So stretched out huge in length the  
Arch-Fiend lay  
Chained on the burning lake, nor ever  
thence

Had ris'n or heaved his head, but that the will  
And high permission of all-ruling Heaven  
Left him at large to his own dark designs,

Or

Of Man's First Disobedience, and the Fruit  
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste  
Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,

( 4 )

4. Answer any one of the following : 5
- (a) How does Milton use epic conventions in *Paradise Lost*?
  - (b) Briefly discuss the significance of the invocation in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.
  - (c) Attempt a brief analysis of the fallen angels in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book I.

### UNIT—III

#### ( Jacobean Drama )

5. Answer any one of the following : 10
- (a) *The Duchess of Malfi* is considered a powerful revenge tragedy. Discuss how the themes of vengeance, corruption and moral decay are central to the play, providing examples from the text.
  - (b) Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* explores the oppressive nature of patriarchal society. Analyze how the Duchess's struggle for autonomy challenges the traditional role of women in Jacobean England.

( 5 )

- (c) Analyze the theme of gender and patriarchy in *The Duchess of Malfi*.
6. Answer any one of the following : 5
- (a) Comment on the significance of Bosola's character.
  - (b) How does Webster use imagery and symbolism in *The Duchess of Malfi*?
  - (c) Discuss the character of Ferdinand and his descent into madness.

### UNIT—IV

#### ( Neoclassical/Augustan Mock Epic )

7. Answer any one of the following : 10
- (a) *Mac Flecknoe* is a brilliant example of Dryden's mastery of satire. Discuss how he uses wit, irony and exaggeration to ridicule literary incompetence, focusing on the figure of Thomas Shadwell.

( 6 )

- (b) Dryden's *Mac Flecknoe* is often considered a mock-heroic poem. Analyze how the poem parodies epic conventions and creates a humorous contrast between the grand style and its trivial subject matter.
- (c) *Mac Flecknoe* is not just a literary satire but also a political commentary on the state of poetry and literary standards of the time. Discuss how Dryden critiques the decline of literature through his portrayal of Shadwell.

8. Answer any one of the following :

5

- (a) Explain the significance of the coronation scene in *Mac Flecknoe*.
- (b) What are the mock-heroic elements in *Mac Flecknoe*?
- (c) How does Dryden establish Shadwell as the rightful heir to dullness?

( Additional 20 Marks for 2023 Batch )

9. Answer any two of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) Write a note on Milton's use of epic similes in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.

P25/1455

( Continued )

( 7 )

- (b) Critically discuss the first speech of Satan in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.
- (c) Critically examine the character of Antonio in *The Duchess of Malfi*.
- (d) Write a note on *Mac Flecknoe* as an allegorical satire.

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P25—7000/1455

2 SEM FYUGP ENGC2