

**QUESTION BANK**  
**CLASS - B.A – PART III**  
**SEMESTER - V**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**Prescribed Textbooks:**

- ❖ **A Background To The Study Of English Literature by B. Prasad**
  - ❖ **The Magic Casement**
  - ❖ **Macbeth by William Shakespeare**
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**UNIT – 1:**

**LONG QUESTIONS:**

1. Distinguish between “Tragedy and Comedy”.
2. Explain the term “Tragic”.
3. Elaborate the concept “Comic”.
4. What are the various types of Tragedy?
5. Enumerate the different kinds if Comedy.
6. What effect does Dramatic Irony have?
7. Explain the types of irony.
8. What are the 5 elements of a Shakespearean tragedy?
9. What is the most famous Shakespearean tragedy? Justify your answer with suitable examples.
10. What makes a Shakespearean tragedy?
11. What are the elements of Shakespearean historical plays?

12. What was Shakespeare's main concern in writing history plays?

13. Are Shakespeare's historical plays accurate? Justify your answer with suitable examples.

## UNIT – 2:

### SHORT QUESTIONS:

Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1. Thou still unravish'd bride of quietness,

Thou foster-child of Silence and slow Time,

Sylvan historian, who canst thus express

A flowery tale more sweetly than our rhyme

a. What possible meanings of 'still' do you think the poet is employing here and why?

b. Identify the instances of alliteration in these lines.

c. What does the poet mean by the last two lines of this extract? Why do you think the poet makes such a comment on the urn?

2. Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,

Though winning near the goal-yet, do not grieve;

She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,

For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!

a. What scene is the poet describing here?

b. What do you think is the 'bliss' the poet is referring to?

c. How does the poet console the lover?

3. Thou, silent form! dost tease us out of thought

As doth eternity: Cold Pastoral!

When old age shall this generation waste,  
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe  
Than ours, a friend to man...

- A. What adjectives has the poet used to describe the urn, and why?
- b. How does the urn tease us out of thought?
- c. Explain the last three lines of this extract.

4. But oh! that deep romantic chasm which slanted

Down the green hill athwart a cedarn cover!

A savage place! as holy and enchanted

As e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted

By woman wailing for her demon-lover!

- a. What is being described here?
- b. Identify and enumerate the elements/features of Romanticism that can be found in these lines.
- c. Which elements in these lines contribute to the atmosphere of the poem?

5. The shadow of the dome of pleasure

Floated midway on the waves;

Where was heard the mingled measure

From the fountain and the caves.

- a. Explain what is being described in these lines.
- b. What is the 'measure' the poet is referring to?
- c. What do you think the 'dome of pleasure' could be a symbol or metaphor for? Elaborate.

6. And all who heard should see them there,

And all should cry, Beware! Beware!

His flashing eyes, his floating hair!

- a. Who is being referred to in these lines?
- b. Why should the listeners 'beware'?
- c. What effect do the metre and the prosodic elements of these lines have on the reader?

7. He sipped with his straight mouth,

Softly drank through his straight gums, into his slack long body, Silently.

- a. What poetic device does the poet use in these lines? What effect does it have on the reader?
- b. Who is being described here? Paraphrase the description in your own words.
- c. Comment on the length and pace of these lines.

8. And voices in me said, If you were a man

You would take a stick and break him now, and finish him off.

- a. What are these 'voices' being referred to here?
- b. What is the attitude of the speaker towards these 'voices' and their commands?
- c. What do these lines reveal about human society?

9. And I thought of the albatross,

And I wished he would come back, my snake.

For he seemed to me again like a king,

Like a king in exile, uncrowned in the underworld,

- a. Explain the reference to the albatross in these lines.
- b. In what way is the snake 'like a king in exile, uncrowned'?
- c. The speaker was afraid of the snake earlier. What caused the change in the speaker's attitude towards the snake?

10. The ship is anchored safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,

From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won

- a. What do the ship and the voyage symbolise?
- b. What was the object that has been won?
- c. Why does the speaker grieve despite the victory?

11. For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths-for you the shores a-crowding,

For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning

- a. Who is being addressed in these lines?
- b. Why are there bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths' at the scene?
- c. Why will the swaying mass' be disappointed?

12. O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;

Rise up-for you the flag is flung-for you the bugle trills

- a. Identify the poem from which these lines are taken. Who is the poet?
- b. Why does the bugle trill in these lines?
- c. Why doesn't the 'captain' respond to the speaker's exhortations?

13. With ravisht ears

The monarch hears,

Assumes the god,

Affects to nod,

And seems to shake the spheres.

- a. Identify the poet and the poem. Who is being described here?
- b. What has the monarch heard? What effect does this have on him?
- c. Comment on Dryden's depiction of the monarch's behaviour. Is there any irony here?

14. When he to fair Olympia press'd;

And while he sought her snowy breast:

Then, round her slender waist he curl'd,

And stamp'd an image of himself, a sov'reign of the world.

- a. Who is the 'he' referred to in the first line? Who is Olympia?
- b. Who is the 'sovereign of the world'? Why is he called so?
- c. What is the intention of the person narrating this story?

15. The master saw the madness rise,

His glowing cheeks, his ardent eyes;

And while he Heaven and Earth defied

Changed his hand and check'd his pride.

- a. Who is the master, and why is he called so? What does this master see before him?
- b. Why is the person being described behaving in this manner? (Give two reasons.)
- c. Explain the meaning of the last line. How is 'his pride checked'?

## **UNIT – 2:**

### **LONG QUESTIONS:**

#### **(1) Ode on a Grecian Urn- John Keats**

Answer the following questions in 300-400 words each.

1. Briefly describe the first major scene that the poet focuses on. What paradox do the characters in this scene face as a result of being frozen in time? What is the poet's attitude towards this paradox?
2. What is your interpretation of the concluding couplet of this poem?

3. Discuss in detail the central themes of the poem. Do you think they embody the tenets of Romantic philosophy? Support your answer with examples from the text.

**(2) Kubla Khan- S.T. Coleridge**

4. The poem is a tribute to the power of the human imagination. Do you agree? Justify your answer with reference to the poem.

5. Coleridge called this poem a fragment. Comment on the fragmentary nature of the poem. Is there any unity in the poem despite it being a fragment? Does the fragmentary nature of the poem connect to any of its themes?

6. How would you describe the atmosphere and tone of the poem? What images, literary devices and figures of speech does the poet use to create the atmosphere of the poem?

**(3) Snake- D.H. Lawrence**

7. Comment on the speaker's opinion of nature, and how he feels about his 'education' In what ways are the speaker's thoughts, feelings and actions indicative of man's attitude towards nature in general?

8. The description of the snake evokes its quiet power. Elaborate on this statement with reference to the poem.

9. Examine the poet's use of sound, diction, imagery and pace to create an appropriate mood for the poem.

**(4) O Captain! My Captain!– Walt Whitman**

10. Analyse in detail the extended metaphor used throughout the poem. Do you think this conceit is an apt one? Justify your answer.

11. What is the mood of the poem? How does the poet create this mood? How does the speaker's mood contrast with that of the people all exulting?

12. What is an elegy? Write a note on the poem O Captain! My Captain!, explaining why it is called an elegy.

**(5) Alexander's Feast (Extract) – John Dryden**

13. What is the function of the first fifteen lines of this ode?

14. How has Alexander been depicted and characterised in this extract (first four stanzas of Dryden's poem)?

15. What is the theme of Dryden's poem? Show how Dryden uses the characters of Alexander and Timotheus to elaborate on his theme.

**UNIT – 3:**

**LONG QUESTIONS:**

(A) Write detailed notes on the following literary terms:

1. Archetype
2. Ballad
3. Bathos
4. Burlesque
5. Carpe-Diem
6. Character
7. Negative Capability
8. Chronicle Plays
9. Anachronism

10. Angry Young Men
11. Kitchen Sink Drama
12. Genteel Comedy
13. Domestic Tragedy
14. Bread and Puppet Theatre
15. Medievalism
16. Metatheatre

(B) Answer the following questions in 300-450 words each.

1. Briefly explain Longinus's theory of the sublime, with special reference to the five sources of the sublime.
2. Examine the contribution of Edmund Burke and Immanuel Kant to the theory of the sublime.
3. Comment on the role played by the theory of the sublime in the Romantic movement.
4. Attempt a definition of New Historicism as a reaction against formalist theories.
5. Briefly examine the contribution made by New Historicism to studies of the Renaissance.
6. Comment on the advantages and disadvantages of Greenblatt's definition of capitalism.
7. Subaltern studies was a reaction against the approaches of the nationalist school and Cambridge group of historians. Elaborate on this statement.
8. Briefly examine the contribution made by subaltern studies to traditional narratives of power with reference to colonial India and Europe.
9. Comment on the developments in the field of subaltern studies since the 1980s.

**UNIT – 4:**

## LONG QUESTIONS:

Answer the following questions in 300-400 words each.

1. How and where do Macbeth and Banquo meet the witches for the first time?
2. What do the witches prophesy? Why are called "imperfect speakers"?
3. Comment on the plans of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth just before the arrival of Duncan to their castle. What reasons does Macbeth give (a). to himself and (b). to Lady Macbeth for not killing Duncan?
4. Explain the set of events that lead to Macbeth's saying: "False face must hide what the false heart doth know".
5. Write a note on the witches and how they are the "instruments of darkness".
6. Examine the scene where Macbeth recounts the murder of Duncan to Lady Macbeth. Discuss the thoughts and feelings of both of them in relation to the murder.
7. How does the scene of the porter at his watch enhance the theme of the play?
8. Recount the reactions of Macduff, Banquo, Malcolm and Donalbain upon the discovery of Duncan's murder.
9. Trace the events of Act 2 as being the focus of the central action of the play.
10. This act is full of actions and images to do with sleeping, waking and sleeplessness. Pick out all the examples related to sleep and death and comment on them.
11. What are the reasons why Macbeth wants Banquo out of the way?
12. Look closely at the conspiracy between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth in scene ii and analyse their plans.
13. How does Macbeth execute the plan for Banquo's death?

14. Describe the banquet scene in this act. How does this scene depict the disturbance in Macbeth's mind?
15. With reference to the last scene of this act, what impressions have Lennox and the other lord gathered about the events in Forres?
16. Describe the scene of the three apparitions. What do they foretell?
17. What is the final vision that the witches show Macbeth? What is his reaction to it?
18. Why does Macduff flee from his castle? What happens to his family during his absence? How does scene iii point to the central evil of the play?
19. How does Ross break the news of the murder of Lady Macduff and her son to Macduff?
20. What is the outcome of Macduff's learning of the extermination of his family? How does this tie up with what Malcolm intends to do? Comment on the weaving of the plot at this point.
21. Study scene i of this act as elaborating on the theme of sleeplessness, disharmony and darkness.
22. How does Macbeth react to Lady Macbeth's restlessness? Comment on their relationship earlier in the play and on his reaction to the news of her death.
23. Trace the progression of events in this act, with the English army meeting up with the Scottish lords at Birnam wood and their movement towards Macbeth's castle.
24. How is Macbeth killed? How do the prophecies of the witches come true in reality with regard to Macbeth's fate? How is Macbeth's belief that he cannot be killed proved wrong?
25. Comment on the judgment of Malcolm with regard to Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.