

2025

M.A. 3rd Semester Examination

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG - 301

(Literary Theory and Criticism - I)

Full Marks : 50

Time : Two Hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

Group - A

Answer any *two* questions : 10×2=20

1. (a) Elucidate Plato's idea of 'mimesis' as discussed in Books 3 and 10 of *The Republic*.

Or

- (b) Discuss Plato's dual theory of truth and illusion in Book X of *The Republic*. How does his idea of metaphysical hierarchy inform his rejection of art?
2. (a) Critically discuss the concept of catharsis with reference to Aristotle's *Poetics*.

P.T.O.

Or

- (b) Who, according to Aristotle, can be an ideal tragic hero? Discuss with reference to *Poetics*.
3. (a) Comment on the second debate concerning the relative merits and demerits of the early 17th century French Drama and early 17th century English Drama in Dryden's "An Essay of Dramatic Poesy".

Or

- (b) How does Dryden develop a comparative study in the final debate on the effectiveness of the use of rhymed verse and blank verse in serious plays? Discuss with reference to the text.
4. (a) What are the different effects of metre, according to Coleridge? Discuss with special reference to *Biographia Literaria*.

Or

- (b) Explain, after Coleridge, the distinction between 'Primary Imagination' and 'Secondary Imagination'.

Group - B

Comment on any *four* of the following : 5×4=20

5. Historical significance of the opening scene of Plato's *Republic*

6. Significance of the allegory of the cave
7. Function of melody (melos) in tragedy
8. Role of the four characters in Dryden's essay
9. Neander's defence of the use of tragi-comedy and sub-plot in early 17th century English drama
10. Coleridge's critique of Gray's sonnet

[Internal Assessment - 10 marks]
