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**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE**

**IV SEMESTER B.A. (EJP) -OPTIONAL ENGLISH**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS- JULY 2022**

**OE 418 - Optional English**

**Time: 1 ½ hours Max marks: 35 marks**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. **This paper has 2 pages and 2 sections**
2. **You are allowed to use a dictionary**

**I. Read the extract and answer the following questions. (2X10= 20 marks)**

Neoclassicism pervades even the two original literary forms produced by the Augustan Age: the periodical essay and, of course, the novel. In both prose forms, an elaborate style – resembling that of Cicero, the great Roman orator – prevails. Sentences are complex constructions, with a preference for Latinate abstract nouns over concrete Anglo-Saxon ones. Among all the rhetorical figures on display these writers particularly favour paradox and antithesis. Elegant balance is the organising principle. Here is Addison, in The Spectator (1711), celebrating the Royal Exchange (London’s centre for trade and commerce) and the abundance of exotic produce traded there:

“Nor is it the least part of our happiness, that while we enjoy the remotest products of the north and south, we are free from those extremities of weather that give them birth; that our eyes are refreshed with the green fields of Britain, at the same time that our palates are feasted with the fruits that rise between the tropics.”

The essayist’s ironic wit and the tone of lofty but genial authority are distinctively Augustan: an English version of Horace’s wry sophistication. Equally, Augustan satirists could lash out with a furious scorn learnt from Juvenal.

1. What is the connection between ‘neoclassicism’ and the ‘Augustan age’? The extract says that the Augustan satirists were known to “lash out with a furious scorn”. Illustrate based on your readings this semester.
2. The extract talks about the organizing principle of “balance”.Discuss how the periodical essays of Addison and Steele delivered this balance in their discussions of the socio-political issues of their age.

**II. Read the following extract from Wordsworth’s introduction to the Lyrical Ballads and answer the following questions. (1X15=15 marks)**

The principal object, then, which I proposed to myself in these Poems was to chuse incidents and situations from common life, and to relate or describe them, throughout, as far as was possible, in a selection of language really used by men; and, at the same time, to throw over them a certain colouring of imagination, whereby ordinary things should be presented to the mind in an unusual way; and, further, and above all, to make these incidents and situations interesting by tracing in them, truly though not ostentatiously, the primary laws of our nature: chiefly, as far as regards the manner in which we associate ideas in a state of excitement.

**Discuss how the extract throws light on the defining principles of Wordsworth’s romantic conception. In what ways was it different from its literary predecessors? Attempt a close reading of any one of his poems to discuss his ideas about romanticism.**