



**ST.JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU-27**

**MA ENGLISH – Ii SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2024**

**(Examination conducted in MAY / JUNE 2024)**

**EN 8118: British Literature II**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 50**

**This paper contains THREE printed pages and FOUR parts**

**INSTRUCTIONS** 1. Please stick to the suggested word limit.   
 2. Do not copy from the passage.  
 3. You are allowed to use a dictionary during the examination.

**PART-A**

**I.A. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 200 – 250 words each:**

**(15 marks)**

1. Pick out 5 interesting examples of comparison (metaphors, conceits, similes, and so on) from your texts this semester, and explain why you found them interesting.

**OR**

1. Pick any text from your syllabus. Imagine that you are a teacher trying to get your students to read (and hopefully enjoy) this perhaps intimidating text. How would you approach the text in the classroom? Which entry points would you choose to zone in on in class?

**PART-B**

**I.B. Answer ALL the following questions in 100 – 150 words each:**

**(2x10=20 marks)**

1. Who do you think will make the better ruler: Horatio, Gertrude, Laertes, or Hamlet? Justify your answer with instances from the play *Hamlet*. / What do you think would be the ideal professions of Hamlet, Polonius, Horatio and Ophelia in today’s world? Justify your answer using your reading of the play *Hamlet*.
2. What are the different meanings the title of Thomas More’s work, *Utopia*, presents to us? Do you see both meanings at work in worlds that seem to be utopias at first glance? Explain.

**PART-C**

**I.C. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 5 – 8 lines each:**

**(1x5=5 marks)**

1. Whom does the narrator seem to address in the line below? How do you imagine the narrator saying the first line? Why?   
   For God’s sake hold your tongue, and let me love,

Or chide my palsy, or my gout,

My five gray hairs, or ruined fortune flout….

Contemplate; what you will, approve,

So you will let me love.

**OR**

1. What do you think the phrase “vegetable love” means in the following excerpt? If you had to substitute the word vegetable with another word, what would it be? Why?   
   I would

Love you ten years before the flood,

And you should, if you please, refuse

Till the conversion of the Jews.

My vegetable love should grow

Vaster than empires and more slow.

**PART-D**

**D. Read the following excerpts from the invocations to Homer’s The Iliad and Milton’s Paradise Lost.**

**The beginning of *The Iliad* translated by Robert Fagles:**

Rage - Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles,

murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses,

hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls,

great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion,

feasts for the dogs and birds,

and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end.

Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed,

Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles.

**The edited beginning of John Milton’s *Paradise Lost:***

OF Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit

Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal tast

Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,

With loss of Eden, till one greater Man

Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,

I thence

Invoke thy aid to my adventrous Song,

That with no middle flight intends to soar

Above th' Aonian Mount, while it pursues

Things unattempted yet in Prose or Rhime.

And chiefly Thou, O Spirit, that dost prefer

Before all Temples th' upright heart and pure,

Instruct me, for Thou know'st; Thou from the first

Wast present, and with mighty wings outspread

Dove-like satst brooding on the vast Abyss

And mad'st it pregnant: What in me is dark

Illumin, what is low raise and support;

That to the highth of this great Argument

I may assert Eternal Providence,

And justifie the wayes of God to men.

**I.D. Answer the following question in 100 – 150 words each: (1x10=10 marks)**

1. Where does Milton’s invocation draw from Homer’s *The Iliad,* and where does it differ?

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