

**DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING IN
ENGLISH**

Term-End Examination

00865

June, 2018

DCE-5 : WRITING POETRY

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

(Weightage : 70%)

Note : *Attempt five questions in all, choosing at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.*

SECTION A

1. Do you think it is possible to give topical relevance to a universal experience of mankind ? Justify your answer with examples. 20
2. What is a cliché ? Why should it be avoided in poetry ? Can clichés have a purpose in poetry ? Give reasons for your answer. 20
3. What is the significance of metre and rhyme in poetry ? Does only a perfect metrical composition merit the status of poetry ? 20

4. Discuss the poetic impulse to use symbols and images in poetry. 20

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 2×10=20

- (a) Free Verse
- (b) Open Ending in Poetry
- (c) Colloquialism
- (d) Nature Poetry

SECTION B

Read the following poems and answer the questions given below :

6. Batter My Heart (Sonnet 14)

– John Donne

Batter my heart, three-personed God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.
I, like an usurped town, to another due,
Labour to admit you, but Oh, to no end.
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,
But am betrothed unto your enemy :
Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

- (a) What is the rhyme scheme of a sonnet ?
Do you think this is a love sonnet ? Give
reasons for your answer.

10

- (b) The first quatrain of this sonnet bombards the reader with a series of verbs beginning with 'batter'. What is the purpose of this extended usage? 5
- (c) Discuss the intense passion of the poetic persona. How is it conveyed? 5

7.

Indian Women

– *Shiv K. Kumar*

In this triple-baked continent
women don't etch angry eyebrows
on mud walls.
Patiently they sit
like empty pitchers
on the mouth of the village well
pleating hope in each braid of their
mississippi-long hair
looking deep into the water's mirror
for the moisture in their eyes.
With zodiac doodlings on the sands
they guard their tattooed thighs
Waiting for their men's return
till even the shadows
roll up their contours and are gone beyond the hills.

- (a) The thematic significance of the poem is built through a series of similes and metaphors. Discuss. 10
- (b) Examine the images 'tattooed thighs', 'doodlings on the sands' and 'angry eyebrows on the mud walls'. 5
- (c) What does the poem tell us about Indian women? 5

8.

Still I Rise

– *Maya Angelou*

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you ?
Why are you beset with gloom ?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

- (a) Comment on the refrain 'I'll rise'. 5
- (b) Explain 'I walk like I've got oil wells pumping in my living room'. Comment on the language used in the poem. 5
- (c) What is the theme of the poem? 5
- (d) Who do you think the poetic persona is speaking to? 5

9.

I'm Nobody!

– *Emily Dickinson*

I'm Nobody! Who are you?

Are you – Nobody – Too?

Then there's a pair of us!

Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!

How dreary – to be – Somebody!

How public – like a Frog –

To tell one's name – the livelong June

To an admiring Bog!

- (a) The thematic significance of the poem is based upon a single idea of being 'Nobody'. Discuss. 10
- (b) Why does the poet wish to hide her public identity? 10

10. Write a poem on any *one* of the following themes :

20

- (a) Words
 - (b) Eternity
 - (c) Prayer
 - (d) Flower
 - (e) Noise
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