

**DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING IN
ENGLISH**

Term-End Examination

June, 2015

01276

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. Can certain innovations in poetry such as dropping of formal punctuation, capital letters and rhyme schemes be justified ? Give an example of a poem in which such an experimentation has been successful.

(450 words) 20

2. The opening of a poem may be either direct or disguised. Which opening do you think is more effective ? Give examples of each to explain. (450 words) 20
3. How do poets engage with their contemporary socio-economic and political environment ? Give examples to illustrate your answer. (450 words) 20
4. What is a cliché ? Why should clichés be avoided in poetry ? Can there be a poetic use of cliché ? Give reasons for your answer. (450 words) 20
5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following : (200 words each) $2 \times 10 = 20$
- (a) Haiku
 - (b) Open ending in poetry
 - (c) Persona in poetry
 - (d) Meter in English verse

SECTION B

6. Read the following poems and answer the questions below each :

Meeting at Night – *Robert Browning*

I

The grey sea and the long black land;
And the yellow half-moon large and low;
And the startled little waves that leap
In fiery ringlets from their sleep,
As I gain the cove with pushing prow,
And quench its speed i' the slushy sand.

II

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;
Three fields to cross till a farm appears;
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch
And a blue spurt of a lighted match
And a voice less loud, thro' its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each!

- (a) Is there any suggestion of expectancy or suspense in the poem ? How does the poet create this effect ? (200 words) 10
- (b) What is the rhyme scheme of the poem ? Discuss the use of poetic persona. (200 words) 10

7.

Amoretti LXXV

– *Edmund Spenser*

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,
But came the waves and washed it away:
Again I wrote it with a second hand,
But came the tide and made my pains his prey.
“Vain man,” said she, “that dost in vain assay,
A mortal thing so to immortalize;
For I myself shall like to this decay,
And eke my name be wiped out likewise.”
“Not so,” (quod I) “let baser things devise
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:
My verse your virtues rare shall eternize,
And in the heavens write your glorious name:
Where whenas death shall all the world subdue,
Our love shall live, and later life renew.”

- (a) Is the poetic persona addressing his beloved in this poem or someone else? Discuss. (100 words) 5
- (b) ‘You shall live by fame.’ How will this happen? (100 words) 5
- (c) Examine the rhyme scheme of the poem. Is the end couplet a witty conclusion? (100 words) 5
- (d) Is this a love poem? What does the act of writing the lady’s name twice on the shore signify? (100 words) 5

8. **Fable of the Mermaid and the Drunks**

– *Pablo Neruda*

All these men were there inside
When she entered, utterly naked.
They had been drinking, and began to spit at her.
Recently come from the river, she understood
nothing.

She was a mermaid who had lost her way.
The taunts flowed over her glistening flesh.
Obscenities drenched her golden breasts.
A stranger to tears, she did not weep.
A stranger to clothes, she did not dress.
They poked her with cigarette ends and with
burnt corks,
And rolled on the tavern floor with laughter.
She did not speak, since speech was unknown
to her.

Her eyes were the colour of faraway love,
Her arms were matching topazes.
Her lips moved soundlessly in coral light,
And ultimately, she left by that door.
Scarcely had she entered the river than she was
cleansed,
Gleaming once more like a white stone in the rain;
And without a backward look, she swam once more,
Swam toward nothingness, swam to her dying.

- (a) The thematic significance of the poem is built through a series of contrasts. Discuss. (100 words) 5
- (b) What does the mermaid symbolise ? (100 words) 5
- (c) Comment on the mythical and fabulous elements in the poem. (100 words) 5
- (d) Discuss the significance of the precious stones mentioned in the poem. (100 words) 5

9. **Untitled Poem**

– *N.T. Rajkumar*

I tease the kites
Ask them, are you well?
You fly away,
disappear in the distance
like a dot.

I cannot touch
the shadow of your wing.
I will be born
again and again.
As a devil,
a ghost,
a kali,
as Isaki.
As the vengeful furies
I will terrorize you and follow you.

- (a) Comment on the symbolism of the kite in the poem. (200 words) 10
- (b) What is the theme of the poem ? Discuss the contrasting images at the beginning and at the end of the poem. (200 words) 10
10. Write a poem on any *one* of the following : 20
- (a) Noise
- (b) Love
- (c) Memory
- (d) Loneliness
- (e) Prayer
-