

01377

DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE WRITING IN
ENGLISH

Term-End Examination

June, 2011

DCE-5 : WRITING POETRY

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

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

SECTION - A

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of romantic poetry ? How can the weaknesses be avoided ? Illustrate your answer with reference to any two love poems. 20
2. What is the difference between direct and disguised openings in poetry ? Answer with reference to Emily Dickinson's 'After great pain, a formal feeling comes.' 20
3. What is a cliché ? What purpose can clichés have in poetry ? Illustrate your answer from Joyce Kilmer's 'Trees' and John Keats's 'Ode' to a Nightingale. 20

4. Is time important in poetry ? In what ways ? How does it affect the flow of language ? Use Nissim Ezekiel's 'The Patriot' or Byron's 'The Destruction of Sennacherib' to illustrate your answer. **20**
5. Write short notes on *any two* of the following topics. **2x10=20**
- (a) Allegory in verse
 - (b) Satiric poetry
 - (c) Imagism
 - (d) Free verse
 - (e) Minimalism in poetry

SECTION - B

Read the following poems and answer the questions given below each.

4x5=20

6. This Page Is a Cloud

- by Derek Walcott

This page is a cloud between whose fraying edges
a headland with mountains appears brokenly
then is hidden again until what emerges
from the now cloudless blue is the grooved sea
and the whole self-naming island, its ochre verges,
its shadow-plunged valleys and a coiled road
threading the fishing villages, the white, silent
surges
of combers along the coast, where a line of gulls
has arrowed
into the widening harbour of a town with no noise,
its streets growing closer like print you can read,
two cruise ships, schooners, a tug, ancestral
canoes,
as a cloud slowly covers the page and it goes
white again and the book comes to a close.

- (a) Identify and comment on the central metaphor in this poem.
- (b) What is the rhyme scheme of this poem ?
Discuss its poetic form.

- (c) Is this a landscape poem ? Give reasons for your answer.
- (d) Read the poem carefully and comment on the movement in it. Is this 'real' or 'unreal' movement ?
- (e) Read lines 7 -11 and comment in 150 words on the picture that emerges.

7. A Child's Nightmare

--by Robert Graves (1895 - 1985)

Through long nursery nights he stood 4x5=20

By my bed unwearying,

Loomed gigantic, formless, queer,

Purring in my haunted ear

That same hideous nightmare thing,

Talking, as he lapped my blood,

In a voice cruel and flat,

Saying for ever, "Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat! ..."

That one word was all he said,

That one word through all my sleep,

In monotonous mock despair.

Nonsense may be light as air,

But there's Nonsense that can keep

Horror bristling round the head,

When a voice cruel and flat

Says for ever, ""Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat! ..."

He had faded, he was gone

Years ago with Nursery Land,

When he leapt on me again
From the clank of a night train,
Overpowered me foot and head,
Lapped my blood, while on and on
The old voice cruel and flat
Says for ever, "Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat! ..."

Morphia drowsed, again I lay
In a crater by High Wood:
He was there with straddling legs,
Staring eyes as big as eggs,
Purring as he lapped my blood,
His black bulk darkening the day,
With a voice cruel and flat,
"Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat! ...Cat" he said, "Cat! ... Cat! ..."

When I'm shot through heart and head,
And there's no choice but to die,
The last word I'll hear, no doubt,
Won't be "Charge!" or "Bomb them out!"
Nor the stretcher-bearer's cry,
"Let that body be, he's dead!"
But a voice cruel and flat
Saying for ever, "Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat!"

- (a) The poet compares a childhood experience with an adult experience. Identify and comment on these experiences.
- (b) What is the function of repetition in poetry? How does Robert Graves use it in this poem?

- (c) Here are some categories of poems : which does Robert Graves poem fit, and why ? Remember that poems can belong to more than one category.

Nature poems, love poems, nonsense verse, satire, war poetry, dramatic monologues, hymns, allegory.

- (d) Explain these lines.

He had faded, he was gone
Years ago with Nursery Land,
When he leapt on me again
From the clank of a night train,
Overpowered me foot and head,
Lapped my blood, while on and on
The old voice cruel and flat
Says for ever, "Cat! ... Cat! ... Cat! ..."

- (e) Write 150 words on personification.

8. **I'm going out** **4x5=20**

-- Kobayashi Issa (1763 -1827); Translated by Robert Hass

I'm going out,
flies, so relax,
make love.

- (a) How many syllables does this poem have ?
(b) Comment on the verse form.
(c) Whom does the poet address ? What kind of a person do you think the poet is ?

- (d) Poems can create a mood and a sense of time. What is the mood of this poem ? How does the poet achieve it ?
- (e) Write 150 words on the function of form in poetry.

9. Introduction To Poetry

4x5=20

-- by **Billy Collins**

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

- (a) What is this poem about ? Whom does the word 'them' refer to ?

- (b) Read these lines. Comment on their images and metaphors.

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

- (c) Read these lines and comment on Billy Collins's idea of the relationship of poet, poem, and reader.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

- (d) What is Collins's metaphor for the reader and the poem in these lines? What is his tone?

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose.
to find out what it really means.

- (e) Write 150 words on the use of criticism in reading poetry.

10. Write a poem on *any one* of the following topics : 20

- (a) Birth
(b) Virtual reality
(c) Desire
(d) Night sounds
(e) Words _____