

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2017
Semester-VI
English
Course – H 16 (Optional)
(Special Author: Thomas Hardy)
(For Regular Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer question no. **1** and **any three** from the rest.

1. a) Thomas Hardy's novels critique the Victorian ideas of gender and morality. Do you agree? Discuss critically.

or

- b) Discuss the depiction of the Wessex countryside in the literary works of Thomas Hardy.
2. a) Bathsheba Everdene – Bathsheba Troy – Bathsheba Boldwood – Bathsheba Oak : evaluate the relative importance of these four names in the plot of *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

or

- b) *Far from the Madding Crowd* has been described primarily as an idyllic novel. Do you agree? Discuss critically.
3. a) Do you think that Tess is more sinned against than sinning? Discuss.

or

- b) Examine *Tess* as a pessimistic novel.
4. a) Do you prefer to read Hardy's poems primarily for the modern elements? Discuss critically.

or

- b) Evaluate Hardy's poetry in the light of the statement that for him, 'the act of observation becomes a vision'?
5. Is there a mere repetition of the subjects prevailing in Hardy's fictional works in his non-fictional writings? Comment critically.
6. "Hardy was a popular literary figure who was repeatedly attacked by critics." Comment critically on these aspects of Hardy's career.
-