

M.A. Examination, 2014

Semester – I

English

Paper – I (Core)

(The Renaissance)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer question No. 1 and **any three** questions from the rest.

1. (a) Is humanism better understood as a pedagogic programme rather than a cultural movement? Justify.
or
(b) Whose Renaissance was it anyway? Discuss the plurality and debatability of the Renaissance phenomenon in respect of class and gender.
 2. (a) Comment on the complexities in the relationship between the devotee and the Divine in the poetry of John Donne and George Herbert.
or
(b) Wit is an indispensable vehicle of emotional intensity in Metaphysical poetry. Discuss with reference to at least two of the poets you have studied.
or
(c) How do Elizabethan sonnets treat the figure of the silent beloved? Discuss with reference to any three poets.
 3. Would you say that in Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus* power in all its ramifications proves to be a delusion? Give reasons for your response.
 4. (a) Discuss Shakespeare's treatment of femininity and the status of women in *King Lear*.
or
(b) Is it possible to read *King Lear* as a grotesque comedy? Give reasons for your answer.
 5. (a) Compare *Doctor Faustus* and *The Duchess of Malfi* as studies in the conflict between individual desire and the forces of society and culture.
or
(b) A certain historical significance is attached to marriage in *The Duchess of Malfi*. Discuss.
 6. (a) Discuss the relationship between the author, the narrator and the narrative in More's *Utopia*.
or
(b) Write a note on Bacon's prose style with reference to the essays prescribed for your study.
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