

**MA Semester I**

**2020**

**English**

**End Semester Examination**

**Core Course I**

**British Literature from Geoffrey Chaucer to the Beginning of English Civil War**

*Students have to include the name of the examination, examination roll number, registration number, course name and the number of pages they are submitting in the front page of the answer script (in the template already provided). They should also put page number on top right of each page. Students should leave a one inch margin on the left and on top before starting to write the examination. All students should write answers preferably in A4 paper. (The long and the short questions are not to be attempted from the same text/subunit)*

**Full Marks: 40**

**Time: 2hrs**

**Unit I**

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions (750 words):

15 x 1= 15

- a) Do you think that the "estates" of medieval society are unequivocally represented in the 'General Prologue' to *The Canterbury Tales*? Point out the differences in Chaucer's approach to these estates with special reference to any three of the pilgrims portrayed.
- b) Show, with suitable illustrations, how the narrative in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* is structured by repetitions, parallels and contrasts.
- c) 'In a metaphysical poem the conceits are instruments of definition in an argument or instruments to persuade.' Bring out the significance of this statement by Helen Gardner with reference to any two poems you have read.

2. Answer any **one** of the following questions (250 words):

5x1=5

a) "Allas! and conne ye been agast of swevenys?

Nothyng, God woot, but vanitee in sweven is."

---Explain how a controversy arises out of these utterances in 'The Nun's Priest's Tale', and briefly state the opposing arguments around the issue.

b) Briefly comment on the opening of the poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

c) Metaphysical poems are remarkable for having extraordinary thoughts in ordinary situations. Briefly comment on this statement with reference to the setting and situation in any one metaphysical poem in your syllabus.

### Unit II

3. Answer any **one** of the following questions (750 words): 15 x 1= 15

- a) Critically comment on the relationship between the two parts of Thomas More's *Utopia*.
- b) Write a note on Bacon's style with special reference to any three of his essays.
- c) How does Milton in *Areopagitica* address the problem of pre-publication censorship?

Support your answer with textual references.

4. Answer any **one** of the following questions (250 words): 5 x 1= 5

- a) Briefly comment on the significance of the full title of Thomas More's *Utopia*.
  - b) Write a short note on the benefits of travel in Bacon's view.
  - c) Briefly evaluate Milton's plan of education to produce 'brave men and worthy patriots'.
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