

2026

ENGLISH — HONOURS

Paper : SEC-2

(Academic Writing)

Full Marks : 75

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words
as far as practicable.*

1. Write the substance of **any one** of the following poems and add a critical note : 12+8

(a) Fair Daffodils, we weep to see

You haste away so soon :

As yet the early-rising Sun

Has not attain'd his noon.

Stay, stay,

Until the hasting day

Has run

But to the even-song;

And, having pray'd together, we

Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay; as you,

We have as short a Spring;

As quick a growth to meet decay

As you, or any thing.

We die,

As your hours do, and dry

Away

Like to the Summer's rain;

Or as the pearls of morning's dew

Ne'er to be found again.

Please Turn Over

(7454)

- (b) A flock of sheep that leisurely pass by
 One after one; the sound of rain and bees
 Murmuring; the fall of rivers, winds and seas,
 Smooth fields, white sheets of water, and pure sky;

 I've thought of all by turns, and still I lie
 Sleepless; and soon the small birds' melodies
 Must hear, first utter'd from my orchard trees,
 And the first cuckoo's melancholy cry.

 Even thus last night, and two nights more I lay,
 And could not win thee, Sleep! by any stealth :
 So do not let me wear to-night away :

 Without Thee what is all the morning's wealth?
 Come, blessed barrier between day and day,
 Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous health!

2. Write a substance of **any one** of the following passages and add a critical note :

12+8

- (a) It seems obvious that one of the important factors in the history of the development of verse must have been its relations with music. Greek verse grew up in fusion with music. Verse and music were learned together. It was not till after Alexander the Great that prosody was detached from harmony. The Greek name for 'prose' was 'bare words'— that is, words divorced from music. But what the Romans took over and developed was a prosody that was purely literary. This, I believe, accounts for the fact that we seem to find in Greek poetry, if we compare it with Latin poetry, we find so little exact visual observation. Greek poetry is mainly for the ear. Compare a landscape in one of the choruses of Sophocles or Aristophanes with a landscape of Virgil or Horace; the Greeks are singing about the landscape, the Romans are fixing it for the eye of the mind; and it is Virgil and Horace who lead the way to all the later picture poetry, down to our own Imagists. Again in the Elizabethan age, the English were extremely musical : the lyrics of Campion could hardly have been composed apart from their musical settings; and Shakespeare is permeated with music. When Shakespeare wants to make us see something, he is always compelling and brilliant; but the effect has been liquified by music so that it sometimes gives a little, the impression of objects seen under water.
- (b) The test of a great book is whether we want to read it only once or more than once. Any really great book we want to read the second time even more than we wanted to read it the first time; and every additional time that we read it we find new meanings and new beauties in it. A book that a person of education and good taste does not care to read more than once is very probably not worth much. But we cannot consider the judgement of a single individual infallible. The opinion that makes a book great must be the option of many. For even the greatest critics are apt to have certain dullness, certain inappreciations. Carlyle, for example, could not endure Browning; Byron could not endure some of the greatest of English poets. A man could be many-sided to utter a trustworthy estimate of many books. We may doubt the judgement of the single critic at times. But there is no doubt possible in regard to the judgement of generations. Even if we can not at once perceive anything good in a book, which has been admired and praised for hundreds of years, we may be sure that by trying, by studying it carefully, we shall at last be able to feel the reason

of this admiration and praise. The best of all libraries for a poor man would be a library entirely composed of such great works only, books which have passed the test of time.

3. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics (in **1000** words) :

35×1

- (a) Planet versus Plastic
 - (b) Art and morality
 - (c) The use of Artificial Intelligence in education
 - (d) The use of children in advertisement
 - (e) Nature in English poetry.
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