

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

Syllabus for B.A. (Honours)  
under revised new course structure  
for Part - I, Part - II and Part - III

in

**ENGLISH**

COMPLIMENTARY



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

*Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling - 734 013*

*West Bengal, India.*

**Syllabus in English Honours (Parts I, II, & III)**

**(REVISED)**

- ❖ Effective from the Academic Session 2014-2015
- ❖ Part I consists of Papers I & II, Part II of Papers III & IV, and Part III of the remaining four Papers.
- ❖ Up to 50% of the Questions set in any year may be repeated in the following year.
- ❖ Word-limits for answering the questions are as follows: (NOT EXCEEDING) 150 words for 5 marks, 350 for 10 marks, 650 for 15 marks, 750 for 20 marks.
- ❖ The previous Question Bank has nothing to do with this Revised Syllabus.

## **Part - I**

### **Paper- I**

#### **I. History of the English Language**

(15x2=30, 5x2=10)=40

Two essay-type questions are to be answered from three questions set; two short notes to be attempted out of five items set.

- (i) General features of English
- (ii) Influence of Christianity
- (iii) The Scandinavian element
- (iv) The French element
- (v) The Latin and Greek elements
- (vi) Loan-words as milestones of general history
- (vii) Shakespeare's contribution to the English language
- (viii) Varieties of English
- (ix) The Role of the Internet

(Questions on short notes will be set from the topics mentioned above.)

#### **Books Recommended:**

1. Otto Jespersen: Growth and Structure of the English Language
2. A.C. Baugh: A History of the English Language
3. F.T. Wood: An Outline History of the English Language
4. David Crystal: The English Language
5. David Crystal: The Language Revolution
6. Tom McArthur: The English Languages

#### **II. History of Old and Middle English Literature**

(20x1=20)

(Two questions to be set serially, out of which any one is to be answered.)

Heroic poetry (with special reference to Beowulf), Christian poetry, Alliterative poems, Beginnings of prose, Chaucer, Langland, & Beginnings of drama.

#### **III. Literary Types**

(20x1=20)

(Two questions are to be set serially, out of which any one is to be answered.)

Tragedy, Comedy, the Lyric and its variants

#### **IV. Rhetoric and Prosody**

(12+8=20)

(Six questions will be set on Rhetoric, out of which four (4x3=12) are to be answered. Only one passage will be given for scansion.)

Paper- II

**Elizabethan, Jacobean and Caroline Literature**

**I. Historical and literary topics**

(20x1=20)

(One question is to be answered from the two questions set.)

Topics: The Renaissance, Humanism, the Sonnet, the University Wits, Comedy of Humours, Elizabethan and Jacobean drama, Revenge Tragedy, & Metaphysical poetry.

**II. Poetry**

(30+10=40)

Two essay-type questions are to be answered out of four questions set on any four authors (15x2=30), and five short questions or explanations will be set serially out of which two questions are to be answered (5x2=10).

- Spenser: (i) "One Day I Wrote Her Name upon the Strand" & (ii) "Fresh spring the herald of love's mighty king"
- Sidney: (i) "Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show" & (ii) "Because I breathe not love to every one"
- Drayton: (i) "Since there's no help, come let us kiss and part" & (ii) "Methinks, I see some crooked mimic jeer"
- Shakespeare: Sonnet Nos. 18, 64, 65, 73, 137 & 138
- Donne: (i) The Good-Morrow, (ii) The Ecstasy, (iii) Canonization, (iv) The Flea & (v) The Sun Rising
- Marvell: (i) A Dialogue between the Soul and the Body & (ii) Thoughts in a Garden
- Vaughan: (i) Regeneration & (ii) The Retreat

**III. Drama**

(30+10=40)

Three essay-type questions (with alternatives) will be set from any three texts. Two questions are to be answered (15x2=30).

Four short questions or explanations will be arranged serially. Any two of them are to be answered (5x2=10).

- Marlowe : Edward II
- Shakespeare: Othello
- Shakespeare : Twelfth Night
- Kyd: The Spanish Tragedy

## **Part- II**

### **Paper- III**

#### **Restoration and Eighteenth Century Literature**

##### **I. Historical and Literary Topics**

(20x1=20)

(Two questions will be set, out of which any one is to be answered.)

Topics: The Restoration, Comedy of Manners, Augustan Verse Satire, The Rise of (i) the Periodical Essay and (ii) the Novel.

##### **II. Poetry**

(30+10=40)

(Two essay-type questions are to be answered. Questions (with alternatives) will be set from any two texts.

Four short questions or explanations will be set serially, out of which two questions are to be answered.)

- Milton: Paradise Lost, Book- I
- Pope: The Rape of the Lock.
- Gray: (i) Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard & (ii) The Progress of Poesy

##### **III. Novel**

(10+10=20)

(Two questions are to be answered from two questions, with alternatives, set from the two texts.)

- Defoe: Robinson Crusoe.
- Fielding: Joseph Andrews.

##### **IV. Drama**

(10+10=20)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set from any two texts.]

- Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer
- Sheridan: The Rivals
- Thomas Otway: Venice Preserv'd

Paper- IV

**Romantic Literature**

**I. Historical and Literary Topics**

(20x1=20)

(One question is to be answered from two questions set.)

Topics: The French Revolution, Classicism and Romanticism, The Precursors of Romantic Poetry, Romantic Literature & Romantic Aesthetics.

**II. Poetry**

(15x2=30; 5x2=10) =40

(Two essay-type questions are to be answered from four questions set on any four authors.

Two short questions or explanations are to be answered from four questions on any four pieces set serially.)

- Blake: (i) SONGS OF INNOCENCE : The Lamb, The Little Black Boy, The Chimney Sweeper; (ii) SONGS OF EXPERIENCE : The Tiger, London, The Human Abstract
- Wordsworth: (i) Tintern Abbey; & (ii) Immortality Ode
- Coleridge: (i) Ancient Mariner; & (ii) Christabel (Part- I & -II)
- Byron: (i) Sonnet on Chillon, (ii) "She Walks in Beauty", & (iii) Venice (From CHILD HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE, Canto IV, Stanzas I-XI)
- Shelley: (i) Ode to the West Wind; (ii) To a Skylark; & (iii) Stanzas Written in Dejection
- Keats: (i) Ode to a Nightingale; (ii) Ode on a Grecian Urn; & (iii) La Belle Dame Sans Merci

**III. Prose**

(10+10=20)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set from the two authors.]

- Lamb: (i) Dream-Children; (ii) The Praise of Chimney Sweepers; & (iii) New Year's Eve
- Hazlitt: (i) On Going a Journey; (ii) On the Fear of Death; & (iii) On Pedantry

**IV. Novel**

(10+10=20)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set on the two novels.]

- Austen: Emma
- Scott: The Heart of Mid-Lothian

## **Part- III**

### **Paper- V**

#### **Victorian Literature**

##### **I. Historical and Literary Topics**

(20x1=20)

(One question is to be answered from two questions given.)

Topics: The Industrial Revolution, Colonialism and Imperialism, Science and Religion, Victorianism, Victorian Prose, & The Pre-Raphaelites.

##### **II. Poetry**

(15+5=20)

(One essay-type question is to be answered from two questions given serially. One short question or explanation to be answered from the two given.)

- Tennyson: (i) Tithonus; (ii) Ulysses; & (iii) The Lotos-Eaters (including "Choric Song")
- Browning: (i) The Last Ride Together; (ii) Fra Lippo Lippi; & (iii) Porphyria's Lover
- Arnold: (i) The Scholar Gipsy; (ii) The Forsaken Merman; & (iii) To Marguerite
- D.G. Rossetti : The Blessed Damozel; & (ii) Sister Helen

##### **III. Novel**

(15x2=30)

[Two questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set from the two texts.]

- Dickens: A Tale of Two Cities
- Hardy: Far From the Madding Crowd

##### **IV. Literary Theory**

(15x2=30)

(Two questions are to be answered from four questions serially arranged.)

(i) Structuralism, (ii) Poststructuralism, (iii) Feminism, & (iv) Postcolonialism

[Suggested Reading:

Peter Barry : Beginning Theory. Viva Books

Terry Eagleton : Literary Theory: An Introduction. Blackwell

Sally J. Scholz : Feminism (Beginners Guides) Viva

Chris Weedon : Feminism : Theory and the Politics of Difference. Blackwell

Robert Young : Postcolonialism : A Very short Introduction. Oxford

John Mcleod : Beginning Postcolonialism . Viva Books]

Paper- VI

**Twentieth Century Literature**

- I. Historical and Literary Topics** (20x1=20)  
(One question is to be answered from two questions given.)  
Topics: Symbolist Movement, Imagist Movement, Modernism in Literature, War Poetry, Poetic Drama, The stream-of-consciousness novel, Literature of the Thirties, & Post-war Literature.
- II. Poetry** (10x2=20)  
(Two essay-type questions are to be answered from three questions serially set.)
- Yeats: (i) Among School Children; (ii) Easter 1916; & (iii) Byzantium
  - Eliot: (i) Gerontion; (ii) The Hollow Men; & (iii) Journey of the Magi
  - Auden: (i) In Memory of W.B. Yeats; (ii) The Sea and the Mirror; & (iii) Look, Stranger!
  - Dylan Thomas: (i) Fern Hill; (ii) The hand that signed the paper; & (iii) In my craft or sullen art
- III. Novel** (10x2=20)  
[Two questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set on the two novels]
- Forster: A Passage to India
  - V. Woolf: Mrs. Dalloway
- IV. Drama** (10x2=20)  
[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set from any two texts.]
- Shaw: Arms and the Man
  - Synge: The Playboy of the Western World
  - Eliot : Murder in the Cathedral
- V. Short Story** (10x2=20)  
(Two essay-type questions are to be answered from three questions set serially.)
- Conrad: The Lagoon
  - Joyce: Araby
  - Mansfield: The Fly
  - Maugham : The Lotus Eater

Paper-VII

**Other Literatures in English**

**I. Poetry**

(15x2=30; 5x2=10)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from questions (with alternatives) set on any three poets.

Two short questions or explanations are to be answered out of four questions set serially].

- Tagore: (i) The Golden Boat; (ii) The Conch; & (iii) Arrival  
(From Rabindranath Tagore – Selected Poems, trans. William Radice, Penguin)
- Kamala Das: (i) An Introduction; (ii) Forest Fire; & (iii) Smoke in Colombo  
(From: Only the Soul Knows How to Sing, D.C. Books, Kerala)
- Atwood: (i) Bored; (ii) In the Secular Night; (ii) This is a Photograph of Me; & (iv) Variations on the Word Love
- Emily Dickinson: (i) I Felt a Funeral in My Brain; (ii) Because I could not Stop for Death; (iii) A Light Exists in Spring; & (iv) The Saddest Thought, the Sweetest Noise

**II. Novel**

(15x2=30)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from three questions (with alternatives) set from any three novels.]

- R.K.Narayan: The English Teacher
- V.S.Naipaul: A House for Mr. Biswas
- Hemingway: A Farewell to Arms
- Ngugi: The River Between

**III. Drama**

(15x2=30)

[Two essay-type questions are to be answered from two questions (with alternatives) set on any two texts.]

- Wole Soyinka: The Lion and the Jewel
- Mahasweta Devi: Mother of 1084
- Albee: The Zoo Story

Paper- VIII

Special Paper (Full Marks-100)

Any one of the following special papers may be offered.

Classical Literature (in translation)

[Four essay-type questions (with alternatives) from any four texts will be set. Four questions are to be answered (20x4=80)

Four short-questions are to be answered (5x4=20) from six questions serially set.]

- Aeschylus: Agamemnon
- Sophocles; Oedipus Rex
- Euripides: Medea
- Aristophanes: The Birds
- Seneca: The Trojan Women
- Virgil: The Aeneid (Bk- I)

**Or**

Indian English Literature

[Four essay-type and four short questions are to be answered, taking at least one from each Group. In each Group two essay-type questions (with alternatives) will be set on any two authors. There will be two short questions set serially in each Group (20x4=80; 5x4=20).]

Group A

Poems of the following poets, as anthologised in Twelve Modern Indian Poets, OUP.

- Nissim Ezekiel
- A.K.Ramanujan
- Jayanta Mahapatra

Group B

- Shashi Deshpande: Roots and Shadows
- Rushdie: Haroun, the Sea of Stories
- Kiran Desai: The Inheritance of Loss

Group C

- Badal Sircir: Evam Indrajit (OUP)
- Vijay Tendulkar: Silence! The Court is in Session (OUP)
- Girish Karnad: Tughlaq

**Or**

American Literature

Four essay-type and four short questions are to be answered, taking at least one from each Group. In each Group two essay-type questions (with alternatives) will be set on any two authors. There will be two short questions set serially in each Group (20x4=80; 5x4=20).

Group A

- Whitman: (i) The Wound-Dresser; (ii) I Hear America Singing; (iii) Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking; (iv) On the Beach at Night; & (v) In Paths Untrodden

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- Frost: (i) An Old Man's Winter Night; (ii) Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening; (iii) Desert Places; (iv) Two Tramps in Mud Time; & (v) Mowing
- Ginsberg: (i) A Supermarket in California; (ii) Crossing Nation; (iii) A Desolation; (iv) Five A.M.; (v) Feb. 29, 1958; (vi) My Sad Self; & (vii) Homework

**Group B**

- Emerson: Selected Essays: (i) Nature; (ii) Self-reliance; (iii) The Over-Soul; & (iv) The American Scholar
- Hawthorne: The Scarlet Letter
- Maya Angelou: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

**Group C**

- O'Neill: Desire under the Elms
- Miller: The Crucible
- Amiri Baraka: Dutchman