

PG – Sem II & IV – Question Bank

PG Sem II

| <i>Paper</i> | <i>Topic/ text</i> | <i>Suggested Questions</i> |
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| CCVI (Unit I) | W.B. Yeats's Poems: 'Byzantium', 'Sailing to Byzantium', 'The Circus Animals' Desertion', Lapis Lazuli, 'An Acre of Grass', 'Easter 1916'. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on Yeats' poetic style. 2. Comment on the use of Irish culture in Yeats' poems. 3. Comment on the use of Irish myths and folklores in Keats' poems. 4. Comment on Yeats' idea of old age and creativity in 'An Acre of Grass'. <p>Comment on Yeats' treatment of the Revolution of 1916 in 'Easter 1916'.</p> |
| CCVI (Unit II) | Virginia Woolf: <i>To the Lighthouse</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on Virginia Woolf's narrative technique. 2. Comment on the character of Mrs Ramsay. 3. Comment on the character of Mr. Ramsay. 4. What role does Lily play in the novel <i>To the Lighthouse</i>? 5. Do you think Virginia Woolf has tried to comment on art through the character of Lily Briscoe? 6. <i>To the Lighthouse</i> is a store house of memories. Comment. <p>Comment on the significance of the journey which is also projected in the title of the novel.</p> |
| CC 7 | Man and Superman | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plot structure 2. Characterization: Ann/ Tanner 3. Any 3 minor characters 4. Themes 5. Hell Scene analysis 6. Title and sub-title 7. Dramatic devices 8. How does Shaw blend wit and philosophy? |
| CC 7 | Murder in the Cathedral | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of 4 Tempters/ How are they similar yet different? 2. Theme of Martyrdom 3. Dramatic relevance of Interlude 4. Chorus/ commentary on 1st song of chorus/ How Eliot deviates from classical mode in presentation of the chorus? 5. Role of Knights 6. <i>Murder in the Cathedral</i> as a Poetic Drama 7. Is the |

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| | | | <p>placing of the Knights' speeches after the murder justified? 8.</p> <p>Does ritual aspect express moral message? 9. Does the play convey more than a Christian message? 10. Do you think that the title should be "Waiting for God"? 11. 'They know and do not know/What it is to act or suffer' 'You know and do not know/What it is to act or suffer'—How are these comments related to Beckett's spiritual progress?</p> |
| CC 7 | <i>Lord of the Flies</i> : William Golding | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Golding refers to himself as a "fabulist". Discuss the novel in this light. 2. Critically analyse the symbolism used in the novel. 3. Discuss <i>Lord of the Flies</i> as a dystopia. 4. Compare and contrast the characters of Ralph and Jack. 5. Analyse Piggy as a figure of failed rationality. 6. What is the role played by Simon in the novel? 7. Consider the island in the novel as a microcosm of the contemporary world. 8. Analyse <i>Lord of the Flies</i> from an eco-critical perspective. |
| CC7 | 'Tradition and Individual Talent', 'Baudelaire', 'What is a Classic?', 'The Frontiers of Criticism', 'The Social Function of Poetry' | | <p>Short questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When did Eliot deliver his lecture on Baudelaire? 2. Which book does Eliot refer to in the context of horse-racing? <p>Broad Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Eliot extol Baudelaire's poetic art in his eponymous essay? 2. What, according to Eliot, are the features of a classic? |
| DSE3 | 'The Ghat's Story', 'Ramkanai's Folly', 'The Exercise Book', 'Kabuliwala', 'Hungry Stone', 'The Wife's | | <p>Short questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Mrinal address her husband in "The Wife's Letter"? 2. What was the narrator's profession in "Kabuliwala"? <p>Broad Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Tagore represent the contemporary social condition through his short stories? |

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| | Letter', 'Woman Unknown', 'Balai' | | 2.Comment on the supernatural effect created by Tagore in "Hungry Stone". |
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| <u>PG Sem IV</u> | | | |
| CCXII | P.B. Shelley: A <i>Defence of Poetry.</i> | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does Shelley define poetry and poet? 2. Comment on Shelley's idea of language in poetry. 3. Comment on Shelley's concept of utilitarianism in respect to art/poetry? <p>Do you agree with Shelley that 'poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world'? Comment.</p> |
| CCXIII | Gilbert and Gubar: <i>The Mad Woman in the Attic</i> . Part I, Sec 2. Infection in the Sentence: The Women Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship. | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comment on women's writing and the problem of authorship. 2. Comment on the problem of 'sociosexual differentiation' discussed in the essay. 3. Comment on the 'anxiety of authorship' that the women writers felt due to lack of a female literary tradition. |
| CC XIII | Barthes: The Death of the Author | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Show how Barthes concludes that the birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the author. 2. The philosophical implications of the essay echoes trends of postmodernism—discuss. |
| CC XII | Selected Letters of Keats | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the important thoughts of Keats's critical thoughts as embodied in his letters. 2. Discuss the Keatsian ideas of the imagination, sensuousness, beauty and truth as expressed in his letter to Bailey. 3. What are the views on negative capability that Keats expresses in his letter to his brothers? 4. How do the letters of Keats combine the personal with the philosophical and the aesthetic? 5. Discuss the writing style of Keats's letters. 6. Analyse Keats's viewpoints on beauty and on Endymion as elucidated in his letter to John Taylor. |

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| DSE | "Why write?": Jean Paul Sartre | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are Sartre's views on writing as an aesthetic pursuit? Discuss. 2. How are the contemporary philosophical and political milieu relevant to Sartre's essay? 3. Why does Sartre feel commitment is necessary for writers? 4. Relate Sartre's philosophy to the prescribed essay in your syllabus. |
| CC12 | 'To Criticize a Critic', 'The Metaphysical Poets', 'Hamlet and his Problems' | | <p>Short questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which German writer does Eliot refer to in his essay "Hamlet"? 2. When was the essay "The Metaphysical Poets" first published? <p>Broad Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why does Eliot complain about the dissociation of sensibility evident in poetry starting from the late 17th century? 2. 'Hamlet is an artistic failure' – Expound this statement by T. S. Eliot |
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