

2026

English (Core)

Paper Code : EN-CE-6344

Paper Name : Concepts in Literary Criticism

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 70

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10
- a) What does the Greek word 'mimesis' mean ?
 - b) Which classical concept does Horace emphasize in *Ars Poetica* to ensure consistency in poetry and drama ?
 - c) What does the word *hypsos* mean ?
 - d) Which character argues in favour of French drama in Dryden's *An Essay on Dramatic Poesy* ?
 - e) What, according to Horace, is the result of a poet attempting 'grandeur' without adequate skill ?
 - f) Which legendary English playwright did Keats hold up as the supreme example of a writer possessing 'negative capability' ?
 - g) Who addressed poets as the 'unacknowledged legislators of the world' ?
 - h) What according to Aristotle is the most important element of tragedy ?
 - i) Which type of imagination does Coleridge describe as "coexisting with the conscious will" ?
 - j) What should be the language of poetry according to Wordsworth ?

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

- a) What, according to Plato, is the ultimate reality ?
- b) How does Aristotle define tragedy ?
- c) Mention any two qualities of the sublime.
- d) What are the three unities referred to by Dr. Johnson while discussing Shakespeare ?
- e) Define fancy as explained by Coleridge.

3. Answer **any four** of the following questions : 5×4=20

- a) Comment on Dr. Samuel Johnson's defense of Shakespeare's violation of the three unities.
- b) Discuss Sidney's views on the moral function of poetry.
- c) Write a short note on Horace's concept of delight and instruction.
- d) Analyse Wordsworth's views on poetic diction.
- e) Write a short note on Matthew Arnold's understanding of the Grand style.
- f) Critically examine Samuel Taylor Coleridge's distinction between 'fancy' and 'imagination'. Discuss the two types of imagination as explained in his *Biographia Literaria*.

4. Answer **any three** of the following questions : 10×3=30

- a) Critically compare the views of Plato and Aristotle on the nature and function of poetry. How does Aristotle's concept of mimesis serve as a defense against Plato's charges ?
- b) Explain the concept of 'negative capability' as proposed by John Keats. How does this idea reflect his attitude towards imagination, beauty and truth ?

- c) Evaluate Matthew Arnold's 'touchstone method' as a scientific tool for literary criticism. How does his requirement of 'high seriousness' determine the inclusion or exclusion of poets from the classic cannon ?
- d) Discuss John Dryden's views on drama with special reference to the definition of a play as a 'just and lively image of human nature'. How does he defend the English dramatic tradition ?
- e) Define 'sublimity' according to Longinus. Discuss the five sources of the sublime as explained in his treatise *On the Sublime*.
- f) Critically discuss P.B. Shelley's conception of poetry.

