



SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University

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TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 002.



Department of English

Instructional Material

General English - I

Sub 23

Department of English

Instructional Material

COURSE: BA English

Section A
One Mark Questions

1. Who wrote Epithalamion?

Answer: Edmund Spenser

2. What is the theme of Shakespeare's Sonnet 116?

Answer: Constancy of true love

3. What kind of poem is Death Be Not Proud?

Answer: A Holy Sonnet

4. Name the poem written by Andrew Marvell in your syllabus.

Answer: The Garden

5. Who is the author of Lycidas?

Answer: John Milton

6. What is the genre of Lycidas?

Answer: Pastoral Elegy

7. Who is Mr. Oldham in Dryden's poem?

Answer: A young poet and satirist

8. Who wrote Essay on Man?

Answer: Alexander Pope

9. What form is Pope's Epistle I written in?

Answer: Heroic couplets

10. What is the theme of The Village Preacher?

Answer: Tribute to a humble rural clergyman

11. Who wrote The Tyger?

Answer: William Blake

12. What poetic form does The Tyger follow?

Answer: Quatrains with a regular rhyme

13. What does “Epithalamion” mean?

Answer: A wedding song or poem

14. What is the central idea in The Garden?

Answer: Solitude and contemplation in nature

15. What is Sonnet 116's view on time and love?

Answer: True love is not affected by time

16. What does Death Be Not Proud challenge?

Answer: The power of death

17. What is the tone of Lycidas?

Answer: Mournful and reflective

18. What philosophical question is raised in Pope's Epistle I?

Answer: The role of man in the universe

19. What symbolizes divine creation in The Tyger?

Answer: The tiger itself

20. What is the significance of rhyme in poetry?

Answer: It enhances musicality and memorability

Section - B
Two Mark Questions

1. Write a couplet from Sonnet 116.

Answer: “Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks / Within his bending sickle's compass come.”

2. How does Spenser celebrate love in Epithalamion?

Answer: Through classical imagery and joyful blessings on the bride

3. Why does Donne address Death directly?

Answer: To personify it and diminish its power

4. What does The Garden say about ambition?

Answer: Ambition is vain; true contentment lies in nature

5. What is the pastoral element in Lycidas?

Answer: Use of shepherd life to represent poetic mourning

6. What is Dryden's tone in To the Memory of Mr. Oldham?

Answer: Admiring and melancholic

7. What is the message in Pope's Essay on Man?

Answer: "Whatever is, is right" — trust in divine order

8. What qualities define the Village Preacher?

Answer: Kind, patient, wise, and selfless

9. How is the tiger described in Blake's poem?

Answer: Fierce, mysterious, and a work of divine craftsmanship

10. What is free verse?

Answer: Poetry without a regular rhyme or meter

Section - C

Five Mark Questions

1. Explain the theme of love in Sonnet 116.

Answer: Shakespeare portrays love as unchanging, unaffected by time, and a guiding star to lost souls. It endures hardships and remains true till the end.

2. Discuss Spenser's use of imagery in Epithalamion.

Answer: Spenser uses celestial and mythological imagery, celebrating marriage and love with vivid descriptions of nature, light, and blessings.

3. Analyze Donne's attitude toward death in Death Be Not Proud.

Answer: Donne mocks Death's perceived power, suggesting it's a transition, not an end. Faith and eternal life render it powerless.

4. Describe the theme of nature in The Garden.

Answer: Marvell emphasizes nature's serenity, contrasting it with societal ambitions. Solitude in nature offers spiritual peace and creativity.

5. Comment on the elegiac tone of Lycidas.

Answer: The tone is mournful, reflective, and poetic, expressing grief over a young poet's death and contemplating fame and mortality.

6. What is Dryden's tribute to Mr. Oldham?

Answer: He praises Oldham's talent, laments his early death, and reflects on poetic greatness and unrealized potential.

7. Examine the structure of Pope's Essay on Man.

Answer: Written in heroic couplets, it blends rationality and poetic elegance to express philosophical ideas about mankind's place in the cosmos.

8. Write a note on Blake's use of symbolism in The Tyger.

Answer: The tiger symbolizes divine creation, power, and mystery. It questions how good and evil can stem from the same creator.

9. How is the preacher portrayed in The Village Preacher?

Answer: A model of virtue, he is wise, gentle, generous, and deeply respected by his community, reflecting Goldsmith's ideal cleric.

10. What are the key features of a pastoral elegy?

Answer: Mourning, invocation of the Muse, nature's lament, questions about fate, and a turn toward consolation.

Section D

Ten Mark Questions

1. Trace the evolution of English poetry from Spenser to Blake with examples.

Answer: English poetry evolved from elaborate classical forms (Spenser) to metaphysical complexity (Donne), pastoral and religious reflection (Milton), neoclassical reason (Pope), and finally, emotional and mystical symbolism (Blake). Each poet represents shifts in tone, theme, and technique.

2. Critically analyze Epithalamion as a wedding hymn.

Answer: Spenser's poem is rich in classical references, blending personal joy with public celebration. Each stanza corresponds to a moment in the wedding day, combining lyrical passion with sacred solemnity.

3. Discuss metaphysical elements in Donne and Marvell's poetry.

Answer: Both poets use conceits, intellectual arguments, and abstract themes—Donne in confronting death, Marvell in solitude and time. Their poetry blends emotion and logic.

4. Explain Milton's Lycidas as a model elegy.

Answer: It mourns Edward King's death while contemplating poetic fame, divine justice, and consolation. The use of pastoral images, mythological allusions, and Christian hope marks its richness.

5. Evaluate Dryden's tribute to Oldham as a poetic criticism.

Answer: Dryden admires Oldham's potential while subtly critiquing his rough style, offering insight into neoclassical ideals and poetic mentoring.

6. How does Pope view man in the universe in Essay on Man?

Answer: Man is part of a divine plan, with limited understanding but guided by faith and reason. Pope emphasizes harmony, order, and moral purpose.

7. Analyze the symbolic structure of The Tyger.

Answer: The tiger's fiery imagery, rhythmic intensity, and unanswered questions symbolize divine complexity, challenging human understanding of creation.

8. Compare and contrast Blake and Goldsmith's poetic style.

Answer: Blake uses mysticism, symbolism, and stark imagery. Goldsmith employs gentle satire, realism, and lyrical simplicity. Both are moralistic but differ in tone.

9. Explain the importance of form and structure in 18th-century poetry.

Answer: Poetic form was precise, often in heroic couplets or sonnets, with focus on balance, clarity, and decorum. Structure reinforced thematic expression and memorability.

10. Write an essay on poetic forms and trends from Renaissance to Augustan Age.

Answer: Renaissance poetry was lyrical and romantic (Spenser, Shakespeare).

Metaphysical poets introduced wit and philosophy (Donne, Marvell). Milton added grandeur. Augustans like Pope stressed reason, formality, and satire. The era closed with early Romanticism in Blake's mystical style.

