



**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: DECEMBER–2022**

**V SEMESTER – OPTIONAL ENGLISH: OE 5122**

**Time: 2½ hours Max. Marks: 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. This question paper is for the **Optional English students of shifts I & II (EJP & TEP).**
2. This paper contains **FIVE** pages with **THREE** sections.
3. Please adhere to the word limit.

**I. A. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 150 words each: (2x5=10 marks)**

1. What are the different meanings the following sentence offers you:

“The girl and the boy were happily playing with each other when the boy kicked the bucket”.

What gives this sentence its ambiguities?

2. Does anything sound off to you about the following sentence:

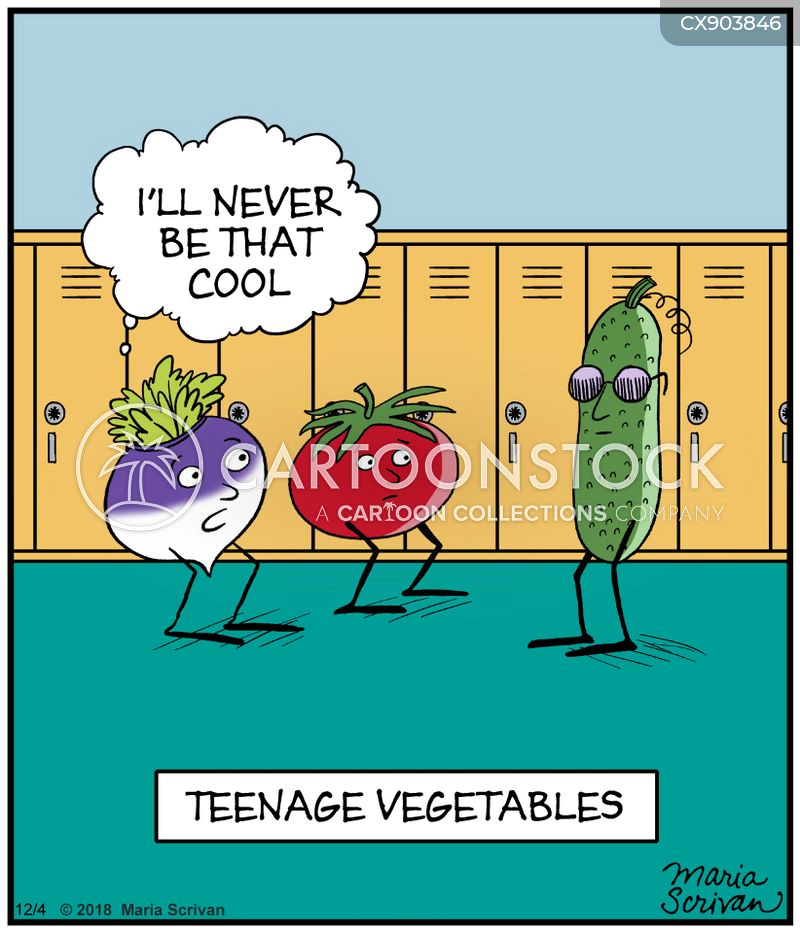
“The horse commanded the man to not enter the house.” Why/why not?

3. “We fondly remember crows as birds that charged at us and caused us to drop our food on the ground.”  
Which lexical relationship do the words “crows” and “birds” share in the above-mentioned line?

**I. B. Answer the following question in about 200 words: (15 marks)**

4. How does Maria Scrivan use the linguistic context and co-text to both evoke humour and portray the insecurities of teenagers through her portrayal of vegetables in the following cartoon?

(Cartoon titled “TEENAGE VEGETABLES”. Text in the speech bubble: “I’LL NEVER BE THAT COOL”.)



**II.** **Read the following article on the Romantic Age by Catherine Allegretti and answer the questions that follow.**

Robert Burns is considered the pioneer of the Romantic Movement. Although his death in 1796 precedes what many consider the start of Romanticism, his lyricism and sincerity mark him as an early Romantic writer. His most notable works are “Auld Lang Syne” (1788) and “Tam o’ Shanter” (1791). Burns inspired many of the writers during the Romantic Period.

William Blake was one of the earliest Romantic Period writers. Blake believed in spiritual and political freedom and often wrote about these themes in his works. Although some of his poetry was published before the official start to the era, Blake can be seen as one of the founders of this movement. His works, *Songs of Innocence* (1789) and *Songs of Experience* (1794), are two of his most significant. These collections of poetry are some of the first to romanticize children, and in these works, Blake pits the innocence and imagination of childhood against the harsh corruption of adulthood, especially within the city of London.

Scholars say that the Romantic Period began with the publishing of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This was one of the first collections of poems that strayed from the more formal poetic diction of the Neoclassical Period. Wordsworth primarily wrote about nature. One of Wordsworth’s well-known works is “The Solitary Reaper” (1807). This poem praises the beauty of music and shows the outpouring of expression and emotion that Wordsworth felt was necessary in poetry. His greatest piece is “The Prelude” (1850), a semi-autobiographical, conversation poem that chronicles Wordsworth’s entire life. This poetry is written in blank verse and is extremely personal and intimate in nature, with much of the content based on the author’s life.

Coleridge and Wordsworth were very good friends and the two often influenced each other. While Wordsworth was much more meditative and calmer, Coleridge was the opposite and lived a more uncontrolled life.

Succeeding Blake, Coleridge, and Wordsworth was a new generation of poets, each following the pattern of Romanticism of those before them. John Keats is still one of the most popular of these poets, with his work continually read and analysed today. Keats aimed to express extreme emotion in his poetry, using natural imagery to do this. He is well known for his odes. Among these odes, “Ode to a Nightingale” (1819) and “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (1819) are most famous.

Percy Bysshe Shelley was seen as a radical thinker for his religious atheism and largely ostracized by his contemporaries for his political and social views. One of his most famous works is “Adonais” (1821). This was a pastoral elegy, a poem combining death and rural life, written for John Keats. The poem mourns the death of Keats and his contribution to poetry. Another of his well-known works was “Ode to the West Wind” (1819) where he discusses the force and power of the wild wind and shows the Romantic writer’s tendency to connect nature with art.

Lord Byron differed from the writing styles of Keats and Shelley. He was heavily influenced by the satire and wit from the previous period and infused this in his poetry. His satire “Don Juan” (1819-1824) is told in 17 cantos, divisions of long poems, and is based on the traditional legend of Don Juan. Byron changes the original telling of the story and instead of creating a womanizing character, he makes Don Juan someone easily seduced by women. The cantos follow his character’s journey as he travels throughout Europe meeting several women and continually trying to escape from trouble. Byron’s other notable work is “Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage” (1812-1816), another lengthy narrative poem. This poem was largely biographical and discusses many of Byron’s personal travels. It describes the reflections of a young man who is seeking new beginnings in foreign countries after experiencing many years of war. This poem is significant because it introduced the Byronic hero, typically a handsome and intelligent man with a tendency to be moody, cynical, and rebellious against social norms.

During the Romantic Period the novel grew in popularity and became one of the major sources of entertainment for middle class citizens. Authors began to tailor their writing to appeal to this audience. Sir Walter Scott gained popularity during this time, both in Britain and around Europe. He mainly wrote within the genre of historical romances and made this a viable form of fiction for later writers. Scott also focused on his home country of Scotland, often writing about its beauty and romanticism. Scott’s first major novel was *Waverly* (1814), which is set during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The rebellious group sought to restore the Stuart dynasty to Charles Edward Stuart. The hero, Edward Waverly, is commissioned to the army and sent to Scotland in 1745. While there, he joins the Jacobite groups even though he knows they will fail and is imprisoned; however, he is ultimately freed. The novel ends with a marriage between Waverly and a Baron’s daughter, Rose, representing the rational, realistic present of Scotland post-rebellion. While this was his first success, generally *The Antiquary*(1816), *Old Mortality*(1816), and *The Heart of Midlothian* (1818) are considered his masterpieces.

During the second half of the 18th century, gothic fiction began to increase in popularity in Great Britain. This came from a look back to medieval times. Often this genre would combine supernatural and mysterious elements with the castles and dungeons of the past. The gothic novel combines the intense emotions of terror, anguish, fear, and even love. Coleridge and Byron both contributed works to this canon, but John William Polidori’s *The Vampyre (*1819) and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818) stand out as two of the genre’s most enduring pieces. Polidori’s work has importance for creating the vampire literary genre. Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* (1897), published during the Victorian Period, would continue to generate popularity around vampirism.

Shelley combines elements of love and the supernatural in her gothic novel, *Frankenstein*. Dr. Victor Frankenstein harnesses the power of life and uses it to animate a creature he has built. When the creature is cast away and refused companionship for his hideous physical features, he becomes murderous and determines to ruin Victor’s life.

The Romantic Period saw more successful women writers, a precursor to their popularity in the Victorian era. The most significant female writer during this period was Jane Austen. Writing toward the end of the period, Austen did not always adhere to the strict Romantic Period guidelines and mocked some of the more extravagant plots of previous writers. Instead, Austen chose to highlight the everyday lives of average people, making a turn toward social realism. Her novels include relatable heroines with adventures that the ordinary reader would likely encounter. She was also able to better depict the lives of women in this way. She understood that women had very little class mobility at the time and used many of her novels as a way to show this. Some of her famous novels include *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), and *Northanger Abbey* (1817). *Pride and Prejudice* is still widely read today and tells the story of Elizabeth Bennet, the second eldest daughter among five. When Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy move into the neighborhood, the Bennet family hopes they will wed two of the unmarried daughters. Although Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy clash heads early in the novel, they eventually fall in love and get married. Austen’s novel *Emma*is also very popular and shows the consequences of meddling with love. Emma thinks that she could be a matchmaker, but her efforts ultimately fail and lead to heartbreak along the way. Although in the beginning of the novel she vows never to marry, by the end she realizes she is in love with Mr. Knightly and the two do get married.

The European Romantic Movement reached America in the early 19th century. It encompassed many of the same ideals, genres, and styles as the European Romanticism and appealed to the Americans’ revolutionary spirit. The English Romantic Period ended with the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1837. The Industrial Revolution was beginning to be fully felt by the people of England as the working class became dominant in the culture. Most significant would be the introduction of the steam printing press and the railroads, which would make it possible to easily make and distribute texts.

[References: Robert Barnard’s *A Short History of English Literature,*Stephen Coote’s *The Penguin Short History of English Literature,*Andrew Sanders’ *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*]

**II. A. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 150 words:**

**(15 marks)**

5. “During the Romantic Period the novel grew in popularity and became one of the major sources of entertainment for middle class citizens.” Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons.

6. “The Romantic Period saw more successful women writers, a precursor to their popularity in the Victorian era.” Has the above article represented women adequately? Explain.

7. What are the gaps that you notice in Allegretti’s writing about the Romantic age? Use your own reading to substantiate your answer.

**III. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in about 150 words each: (3x10=30)**

8. In what sense is John Keats’ poem an ode to a nightingale? Explain giving reasons.

9. "They flash upon that inward eye/ Which is the bliss of solitude”. Explain how this sentence allows us to understand Wordsworth’s ideas.

10. What insights do John Dryden’s *Marriage a-la-Mode* and William Congreve’s *The Way of the World* offer us of what women were within marriages?

11. Why do you think Samuel Johnson writes a letter to Lord Chesterfield and makes his letter public?