

**ST.JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU - 27**

**MA ENGLISH – I SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 2023**

**(Examination conducted in November / December 2023)**

**EN 7118: British Literature I**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 50**

**This paper contains \_\_\_2\_\_\_ printed pages and \_\_\_4\_\_ parts**

**PART-A**

**Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 200—250 words each: (1 X 15 = 15 marks)**

1. How does reading Old English or Middle English literature challenge our notions of texts and their function?
2. What has been for you the most striking encounter with poetry this semester? Quote a few lines from memory, and provide a careful explication of the movement in these lines that you found interesting.

**PART-B**

**Answer the following questions in 150 words each: (2 x 10 = 20 marks)**

1. Comment on the way in which the mysterious manifests itself in Beowulf using two instances from the text. How does this complicate the idea of heroic poetry?
2. Who do you find yourself sympathising with in the Miller’s Tale? Is this the result of something in the text, or does it come from somewhere else? Explain your response.

**PART-C**

**Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 5—8 lines words each: (1 x 5 = 5 marks)**

1. What relationship can you argue for between these two lines: “Sumer is icumen in/Lhude sing cuccu”?

**OR**

1. Identify the text which opens thus, and comment on the way in which the introduction of an ‘I’ early on impacts our response. :
In a summer season · when soft was the sun,

I clothed myself in a cloak as I shepherd were,

Habit like a hermit's · unholy in works,

And went wide in the world · wonders to hear.

**PART-D**

**Contrast these translations of Caedmon’s Hymn and tell us which version allows you to encounter more clearly the simple herder who wrote these lines. Give reasons for your answer in 150 words each: (1 x 10 = 10 marks)**

**TRANSLATION I**

Now we ought to praise the Guardian of the heavenly kingdom,

The might of the Creator and his conception,

The work of the glorious Father, as he of each of the wonders,

Eternal Lord, established the beginning.

He first created for the sons of men

Heaven as a roof, holy Creator;

Then the middle-earth, the Guardian of mankind,

The eternal Lord, afterwards made

The earth for men, the Lord almighty

**TRANSLATION 2**

Now we must praise the protector of the heavenly kingdom

the might of the measurer and his mind’s purpose,

the work of the father of glory, as he for each of his wonders,

the eternal Lord, established a beginning.

He shaped first for the sons of the earth

heaven as a roof, the holy maker;

then the middle-world, mankind’s guardian,

the eternal Lord, made afterwards,

solid ground for men, the almighty Lord.