Civil Services (Main)
Examination- 2025

SLPM–U–ENG

ENGLISH

PAPER—I

(LITERATURE)

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions

There are EIGHT questions divided in two Sections.

Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.

Question Nos. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE from each Section.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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SECTION—A

1. Write short notes on the following. Each should be written in about *150* words :

10×5=50

(a) Major literary developments of the Renaissance

(b) Representation of the supernatural in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama

(c) Key characteristics that define Metaphysical poetry

(d) Function of satire in mock-epic

(e) Factors contributed to the emergence of novel as a literary form in the 18th century

2. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) Examine the theme of freedom with references to Ariel and Caliban characters in the play *The Tempest.* 20

(b) Estimate John Donne as a Metaphysical poet with references to his poems prescribed. 15

(c) What is the significance of Satan's journey through Chaos in Book II of *Paradise Lost*? Discuss. 15

3. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) Examine how the structure of the play *King Lear*, with its interwoven plots, contributes to the overall thematic concerns. 20

(b) Discuss how the mock-epic style enhances the humour and irony of the narrative in *The Rape of the Lock.* 15

(c) How does Wordsworth represent the impact of childhood and innocence in the poem *Ode on Intimations of Immortality*? 15

4. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) With reference to the characteristics of Romantic poetry, assess Wordsworth as a Romantic poet. 20

(b) How does the poet Tennyson reflect his emotional journey in the poem *In Memoriam*? Explain. 15

(c) Justify your views that the play *A Doll's House* challenges traditional views on marriage and family. 15

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SECTION—B

5. Read the given poem critically and answer *all* the questions that follow : 10×5=50

Myself

I have to live with myself and so
I want to be fit for myself to know.
I want to be able as days go by,
always to look myself straight in the eye;
I don't want to stand with the setting sun
and hate myself for the things I have done.
I don't want to keep on a closet shelf
a lot of secrets about myself
and fool myself as I come and go
into thinking no one else will ever know
the kind of person I really am,
I don't want to dress up myself in sham.
I want to go out with my head erect
I want to deserve all men's respect;
but here in the struggle for fame and wealth
I want to be able to like myself.
I don't want to look at myself and know that
I am bluster and bluff and empty show.
I never can hide myself from me;
I see what others may never see;
I know what others may never know,
I never can fool myself and so,
whatever happens I want to be
self respecting and conscience free.

(a) What is the main message or moral lesson of the poem? How does the speaker emphasize this throughout the poem?

(b) How does the speaker define self-respect, and why is it so important to him?

(c) How does the poet use repetition to emphasize key ideas of the poem?

(d) Which lines stand out the most to you, and why? How do they contribute to the overall theme of the poem?

(e) How would you relate the message of this poem to modern society, especially in a world influenced by social media or public image?

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6. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) How does Swift use satire in *Gulliver's Travels* to critique his contemporary society? Explain with textual references. 20

(b) Discuss how Jane Austen uses irony as a narrative technique in *Pride and Prejudice* to reveal characters. 15

(c) Substantiate your understanding of *Tom Jones* as a bildungsroman and a picaresque novel. 15

7. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) Examine the concept of virtue constructed and challenged through the characters of Tom and Sophia in the novel *Tom Jones*. 20

(b) Analyze the novel *Hard Times* under the statement "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". 15

(c) Consider *The Mill on the Floss* interrogates the theme of education, particularly in relation to gender and class, through the contrasting experiences of Tom and Maggie. 15

8. Answer *all* the questions :

(a) The theme of conflict between personal desire and social expectation manifests in Maggie's life choices in the novel *The Mill on the Floss*. Discuss. 20

(b) Elaborate the role of social class played in Tess's life in the novel *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. 15

(c) Interpret how Mark Twain's portrayal of race and slavery reflects the attitudes of his time in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. 15

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