Civil Services (Main)
Examination- 2025

SLPM-D-ENG

ENGLISH

Paper II

(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.*

*Questions no. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, any **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question 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.

SECTION A

Q1. Critically comment in about 150 words on each of the following : *10×5=50*

(a) And may her bridegroom bring her to a house
Where all's accustomed, ceremonious;
For arrogance and hatred are the wares
Peddled in the thoroughfares.

(W.B. Yeats) *10*

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(b) The trilling wire in the blood
Sings below inveterate scars
Appeasing long forgotten wars.
(T.S. Eliot) *10*

(c) There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.
(W.H. Auden) *10*

(d) All the unhurried day,
Your mind lay open like a drawer of knives.
(Philip Larkin) *10*

(e) A beggar once came with a violin
to croak out a prostitute song
that our voiceless cook sang
all the time in our backyard.
(A.K. Ramanujan) *10*

Q2. Answer all of the following :

(a) Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" explores the psychological chaos and alienation associated with modernism. Discuss. *15*

(b) Comment on W.B. Yeats' apocalyptic and prophetic enunciations contained in the prescribed poems. *15*

(c) On the basis of your readings of A.K. Ramanujan's poems, trace the elements of quintessential Indian ethos contained therein. *20*

Q3. Answer all of the following :

(a) Analyse W.H. Auden's poetry as a blend of 'historical context with modern critique.' *15*

(b) Philip Larkin's poems of disgust and despair hid a wounded romantic temperament behind a mask of irony. Elucidate. *15*

(c) Discuss how modernism in literature experimented with language, form and style to represent the complexities of the then contemporary human life. Make use of the prescribed texts to substantiate your answer. *20*

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Q4. Answer all of the following :

(a) How does Jimmy Porter's anger function as both a critique of post-war British society and a manifestation of personal inadequacies in John Osborne's play "Look Back in Anger" ? *15*

(b) How does modernist poetry employ 'symbolism' to give an ironic twist to descriptions in order to create meaning ? *15*

(c) In *Waiting for Godot*, how does Beckett use 'absence' to challenge traditional notions of time, purpose and meaning ? *20*

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SECTION B

Q5. Answer all of the following in about 150 words each : *10×5=50*

(a) Discus how industrialization impacts the characters and their relations in Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. *10*

(b) The presence of a female narrator underlines the feminized Gandhian approach of submission and non-aggression in *Kanthapura*. Elucidate. *10*

(c) Discuss Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* as a rumination on Irish nationalism. *10*

(d) Analyse the treatment of Time in the novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. *10*

(e) Attempt a postcolonial reading of *A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster. *10*

Q6. Answer all of the following :

(a) Conrad's *Lord Jim* documents the exploitative nature of European colonialism. Discuss. *15*

(b) Analyse V.S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* in the light of the following quotation :

"They had grown up in the heart of darkness, and at the edge of the world. And beyond was the real world, cold and unexotic, where their fate was written." *15*

(c) "Marxist analysis can be used as a tool to reveal the oft-hidden structures in literary texts." Analyse any two novels prescribed in your syllabus in the light of the above statement. *20*

Q7. Answer all of the following :

(a) Examine Mrs. Moore's character as a bridge between British and Indian cultures in *A Passage to India*. To what extent does she succeed or fail in this role ? *15*

(b) *Mrs. Dalloway* merges psychological realism with an evolved aesthetic or poetic self-consciousness. Illustrate with examples from the text. *15*

(c) Evaluate Raja Rao's *Kanthapura* as a critique of British colonial and imperial rule. *20*

Q8. Answer all of the following :

(a) How does Joyce portray the artist's struggle for independence and the role of creativity in Stephen Dedalus' life ? Elaborate. *15*

(b) Bring out V.S. Naipaul's vivid portrayal of the decay of Hindu culture and cultural clash in the multi-racial society of Trinidad in reference to *A House for Mr. Biswas*. *15*

(c) Critically comment on exploitation and dehumanisation as brutal realities of industrialization with reference to Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. *20*

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