Civil Services (Main)
Examination, 2026

KVMS-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.

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SECTION A

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

(a) Fish, flesh, or fowl commend all summer long
Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual music all neglect
Monuments of unageing intellect.

(W.B. Yeats) *10*

(b) Do I dare
Disturb the universe?
In a minute there is time
For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.

(T.S. Eliot) *10*

(c) Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

(W.H. Auden) *10*

(d) In the hollows of afternoons
Young mothers assemble
At swing and sandpit
Setting free their children.

(Philip Larkin) *10*

(e) a house that leaned
slowly through our growing
years on a bent coconut
tree in the yard.
Being the burning type,
he burned properly
at the cremation

(A.K. Ramanujan) *10*

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Q2. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) How does the myth of Leda's rape in Yeats's "Leda and the Swan" symbolize the social milieu of early twentieth-century Europe ? *15*

(b) How does T.S. Eliot's "Journey of the Magi" explore the themes of alienation, regret and powerlessness ? *15*

(c) Analyse how A.K. Ramanujan's poems depict the negotiation between heritage and modernity in the formation of postcolonial identity. *20*

Q3. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) Assess how far W.H. Auden's assertion that "Poetry makes nothing happen" is true. *15*

(b) Discuss Philip Larkin's statement that "deprivation is for me what daffodils were for William Wordsworth", with reference to his poetic vision. *15*

(c) What structural and formal innovations characterised modernist poetry ? Illustrate with reference to the prescribed poems. *20*

Q4. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) To what extent does the revolutionary impact of *Look Back in Anger* lie, not only in its themes, but also in its language and dramatic expression ? *15*

(b) Discuss how *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett represents a convergence between avant-garde and popular culture. *15*

(c) Discuss the use of existential themes, circular dialogues, and illogical situations in absurd drama. *20*

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SECTION B

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

(a) Analyse the ways in which Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* addresses the ideological and moral consequences of colonialism and racism. *10*

(b) Elaborate how guilt, sin and confession contribute to Stephen's moral and psychological development in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. *10*

(c) Examine the characters in *Sons and Lovers* from a psychoanalytical perspective. *10*

(d) Analyse how E.M. Forster employs the tripartite structure in *A Passage to India* to explore the limits of cross-cultural understanding. *10*

(e) Examine *Mrs. Dalloway* as a novel that explores its deepest concerns through the themes of medicine, empire, and love. *10*

Q6. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) Analyse the role of oral narrative style and mythic framework in shaping the structure of *Kanthapura*. *15*

(b) Explore V.S. Naipaul's use of comic situations and satiric characterisation in *A House for Mr. Biswas*. *15*

(c) Examine the features and significance of the stream of consciousness technique in modernist literature with reference to *Mrs. Dalloway*. *20*

Q7. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) Discuss how Joseph Conrad explores the complex issues of honour, guilt and heroism in his novel *Lord Jim*. *15*

(b) Analyse the significance of the ending of *A Passage to India* in terms of colonial separation and the politics of desire. *15*

(c) Examine how *Kanthapura* portrays poverty, illiteracy, and superstition. *20*

Q8. Answer all of the following questions :

(a) Examine how V.S. Naipaul uses the physical and social landscape in *A House for Mr. Biswas* to mirror the struggles, aspirations, and isolation of Mr. Biswas. *15*

(b) Discuss the representation of colliery life in D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. *15*

(c) Discuss the interplay between Stephen's personal experiences and his emerging ideas about the role of the artist in society. *20*

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