

TULASI WOMEN'S COLLEGE,
KENDRAPARA
MODEL QUESTION BANK
ENGLISH

CORE-I

1. Answer the following in brief:
 - a) Write a short note on the Hundred Years' War fought between England and France.
 - b) Briefly discuss the effects of the Black Death in English society.
 - c) How did the Protestant faith gain prominence in England?
 - d) Write a short note on the standardisation of the English language.
 - e) Differentiate between Metaphysical and Cavalier poets.
 - f) Who were the University Wits? How did they contribute to the development of the Revenge tragedy?

2. a) Appreciate Chaucer's *The Nun's Priest's Tale* as a beast fable.

Or

How does Chanticleer fall prey to the fox's guile? How does he essay his escape from the clutches of the fox?

- b) Bring out the mock-heroic elements presented in *The Nun's Priest's Tale*.

Or

How does Chaucer contrast the human world with that of the animal one?

3. a) Critically appreciate Spenser's Sonnet LXVII, "Like as a huntsman".

Or

Discuss "Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" as a metaphysical poem.

- b) Discuss the themes of time and death presented by Spenser in "Amoretti LXXV: One Day I wrote Her Name".

Or

Bring out the metaphysical conceit in the poem, "The Sunne Rising".

4. a) *Doctor Faustus* presents the conflict between Mediaeval and Renaissance values. Discuss.

Or

How does Marlowe's play, *Doctor Faustus* explore the theme of vaulting ambition?

- b) Comment on the significance of sin and damnation in *Doctor Faustus*.

Or

Discuss the divided nature of man as expressed by Christopher Marlowe.

- 5. a) *Twelfth Night* discusses love as a cause of suffering. Do you agree? Justify your argument based on your reading of the play.**

Or

How does Shakespeare handle the folly of ambition in the play, *Twelfth Night*?

- b) Briefly sketch the character of Malvolio.**

Or

Comment on disguise and deception in *Twelfth Night*.

CORE-II

1. Answer the following in brief:

- a) Discuss the development of satire during the Augustan age.
- b) Explain mock-epic poetry as a poetic form.
- c) Why was the Age of Enlightenment known as the age of reason?
- d) Explain the features of Comedy of Manners.
- e) Outline the characteristics of Augustan poetry.
- f) Discuss the development of print culture during the Augustan age.

2. a) Discuss the role of invocation in *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

Or

“In writing *Paradise Lost*, Milton was of the devil’s party without knowing it.”
Comment on this view keeping in mind the first book of *Paradise Lost*.

- b) How does Satan, exhort the fallen angels, to regroup themselves?

Or

Satan appears grand, even in his fallen state. Discuss.

3. a) Discuss *The Duchess of Malfi* as a revenge tragedy.

Or

How does Webster explore the issues of love and marriage in *The Duchess of Malfi*?

- b) Comment on the character of Bosola as a malcontent.

Or

Male authority is seen as a dominating force in *The Duchess of Malfi*. Justify.

4. a) Bring out the gender roles in the play *The Rover*.

Or

Contrast the characters of Florinda and Angelica.

- b) Analyse the class conflict expressed by Aphra Behn in *The Rover*.

Or

Highlight the significance of masks as a symbol in *The Rover*.

5. a) Appreciate *The Rape of the Lock* as a mock epic poem.

Or

Comment on the use of supernatural machinery in *The Rape of the Lock*.

b) Alexander Pope mocks the triviality of courtly life in *The Rape of the Lock*. Discuss.

Or

Describe Belinda's process of beautifying herself.

Core-III

1. Answer all the questions

- a) Describe the characteristic features of Augustan age.

Or

Describe the features of Restoration drama.

- b) Write a short note on the comedy of manners.

Or

Briefly explain the development of satire.

2. Answer all the questions

- a) Describe Mary Wollstonecraft's views regarding kings and regal status?

Or

Analyse the elements of feminism in Mary Wollstonecraft's "The Rights and Involved Duties of Mankind Considered."

- b) Contrast the ideas of Wollstonecraft with those of Rousseau.

Or

How does power render people idle and vicious?

3. Answer all the questions.

- a) What is the function of wit according to Joseph Addison?

Or

Appreciate Joseph Addison as an essayist based on your reading of his essays.

- b) What are the features of a conversation?

Or

How does friendship improve happiness and abate misery?

4. Answer all the questions.

- a) **Doctor Johnson is a didactic essayist. Justify this statement, based on your reading of his essays.**

Or

How do the writers of travel narratives, fail to convey anything meaningful?

- b) **What should be the purpose of a traveller?**

Or

Why do young men grow indifferent towards learning?

Core-IV

1. Answer all the questions.

- a) **Discuss the growth of English education in India.**

Or

Describe the methods adopted by the British to promote English language in India.

- b) **How did the princely states encourage higher education and the study of foreign languages?**

Or

How did colonialism affect education in India?

2. Answer all the questions.

- a) **Critically appreciate the poem, “Obituary”.**

Or

Analyse the poem, “Grandfather” as a poem of nostalgia.

- b) **How does the poem “The Bangle Seller” throw light on Sarojini Naidu’s conception of Indian women?**

Or

Comment on the nature of superstition and primitive beliefs as presented in the poem, “Night of the Scorpion”.

3. Answer all the questions.

- a) **Sketch the transformation of Raju from a railway guide, to a spiritual guru.**

Or

Analyse the relationship that develops between Raju and Rosie.

- b) **How does Raju land up behind bars?**

Or

Sketch the character of Marco.

4. Answer all the questions.

a) Give a picturesque description of the Gandhi household.

Or

Analyse the themes of communalism presented by Mahesh Dattani in the play *Final Solutions*.

b) Sketch the character of Bobby

Or

Appreciate the character of Smita.

Core-V

1. a) Discuss the destructive nature of love that exists between Catherine and Heathcliff.

OR

Discuss *Wuthering Heights* as a gothic novel.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Comment on the symbol of the moors in *Wuthering Heights*.
- ii. Bring out the significance of the dream sequences in *Wuthering Heights*.

2. a) *Yajnaseni* highlights the plight of every woman in the society. Discuss.

OR

Analyse the relationship between Draupadi and Lord Krishna in *Yajnaseni*.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Appreciate the character of Yudhisthir.
- ii. How does Draupadi maintain a harmonious relationship between the five Pandavas?

3. a) *An Introduction* voices the speaker's struggle for identity as a woman in a world dominated by men.

OR

Critically appreciate the poem "Mirror" by Sylvia Plath.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Analyse the nature of love and lust as described by Kamala Das in the poem "The Sunshine Cat".
- ii. Comment on the disembodied narrator of the poem "This is a Photograph of Me."

4. a) How does Woolf describe the narrator's thoughts on women and fiction?

OR

Comment on the literary references Woolf makes in "Chapter 1" from *A Room of One's Own*.

OR

Bring out the treatment of women as the “other” as explored by Simone de Beauvoir in the “Introduction” from *The Second Sex*.

OR

Analyse *The Second Sex* as a feminist text.

b) Answer any one of the following

- i.** Comment on the symbol of fish employed by Virginia Woolf in *A Room of One's Own*.
- ii.** What kind of experience does the narrator have at the library?
- iii.** How does Beauvoir describe women's subordination in terms of reproduction?
- iv.** How does motherhood affect women?

CORE-VI

1. a) Sketch the character of Telemachus based on your reading of the *Odyssey*, Book I.

OR

Describe the plight of Odysseus on the island of Ogygia.

OR

Discuss the state of affairs in Ithaca.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Write a note on the invocation made by Homer.
- ii. What advice does Athena give to Telemachus?
- iii. How does Penelope react to the bard's song regarding the Greek heroes?

2. a) Analyse *Oedipus Rex* as a typical Aristotelian tragedy.

OR

Comment on the significance of fate in *Oedipus Rex*.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. How did Oedipus become the king of Thebes?
- ii. Discuss Tiresias' response to Oedipus' allegations.

3. a) Discuss *Frogs* as a criticism of contemporary Greek drama.

OR

Describe Dionysius' journey to Hades.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Sketch the character of Xanthias.
- ii. Bring out the significance of the Chorus in the play.

4. a) What are Aristotle's views on tragedy?

OR

Discuss Aristotle's theory of universality.

OR

Describe the arguments presented by Plato against poetry in *Republic* (Book 10).

OR

Poetry is twice removed from reality. Elucidate.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i.** Define Aristotle's theory of Catharsis.
- ii.** Discuss the concept of three unities.
- iii.** What kind of images do the poets portray?
- iv.** How does poetry corrupt even the best souls?

Core-VII

1. a) Appreciate “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” as a modernist poem.

OR

“Sailing to Byzantium” is a journey from the sensual to the spiritual world. Discuss.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Annotate:

Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual music all neglect
Monuments of unageing intellect.

- ii. Comment on the imagery used in “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”.
iii. Critically appreciate the poem “In a Station of the Metro.”

2. a) “The Unknown Citizen” is a satire on the identity of modern man. Discuss.

OR

“Dulce et Decorum Est” paints a grim picture of war. Elucidate.

OR

Critically appreciate “Prayer Before Birth” by Louis MacNeice.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Analyse the tone of disillusionment present in the poem “Suicide in the Trenches”.
ii. Discuss the theme of marginalisation conveyed in the poem “An Elementary Classroom in a Slum”.
iii. Comment on the imagery of “Dulce et Decorum Est.”

- v. a) Analyse *Mrs. Dalloway* as a Stream of Consciousness novel.

OR

Sketch the character of Clarissa Dalloway.

OR

How does Father Flynn’s death affect the other characters?

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Why does Septimus commit suicide?
ii. Bring out the theme of disillusionment in *Mrs. Dalloway*.

- iii. “Two Gallants” is a story of manipulation and deceit. Discuss.
- vi. a) Henry James maintains that a work of fiction need not have “a conscious moral purpose.” Elaborate.

OR

How does Henry James regard the novel as a representation of life?

OR

What role does tradition play according to TS Eliot?

OR

Analyse Eliot’s views on the impersonality of poetry.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. What does Eliot convey regarding the permanence of the works of art?
- ii. Describe in brief Eliot’s theory of a catalyst.
- iii. What contributes to the vitality of a novel?
- iv. Comment on James’ biological metaphor of an organism.

Core-VIII

1. a) Appreciate *Murder on the Orient Express* as a detective fiction.

OR

Is Ratchett's murder justified? Present your argument on the basis of your reading the novel.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Comment on the issue of law and justice as depicted in the novel *Murder on the Orient Express*.
- ii. How does Poirot discover the identities of the passengers?
- iii. Why do Poirot, M. Bouc, and Dr Constantine agree to the "first solution"?

2. a) *Socialite Evenings* provides an account of the emotional and moral bankruptcy among the elites. Discuss.

OR

Analyse *Socialite Evenings* as a novel describing a decadent society.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Discuss *Socialite Evening* as a popular novel.
- ii. Analyse the portrayal of women in *Socialite Evenings*.

3. How do Hari, Ryan and Alok cope up with the rigor and monotony of the academic system?

OR

Describe the relationship between Hari and Neha.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Sketch the character of Alok.
 - ii. Discuss the domineering attitude of Prof Cherian.
4. Comment on the use of myths in *The Immortals of Meluha*.

OR

How does Shiva marry Sati?

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. How does Shiva become Neelkanth?
- ii. Sketch the character of Brahaspati.

Core-IX

1. a) Bring out the theme of social disparity in Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*.

OR

Describe Moorthy's efforts to promote the spirit of nationalism among the villagers.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. What is a sthala purana? In what manner can *Kanthapura* be considered as a sthala purana?
- ii. Describe the state of affairs in the Skeffington Coffee Estate.

2. a) How does Ralph balance his personal life with his political ambitions?

OR

Describe Ralph's experiences while growing up on the island of Isabella.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Critically examine the relationship between Cecil and Ralph's father.
- ii. Why does Ralph's marriage fall apart?

3. a) Appreciate *July's People* as a story of survival.

OR

Describe the complex social relations highlighted in *July's People*.

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. Bring out the symbolic significance of the gun.
- ii. Comment on the White South African Liberalism portrayed in *July's People*.

4. a) Establish the relation between language and power as mentioned by Chinua Achebe.

OR

How is English language a blessing for the people of Africa?

b) Answer any one of the following.

- i. What is the role of English language in African literature?
- ii. Why did Achebe feel that Shabaan Robert did not have a major influence in the field of literature?

Core-X

1. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. Justify the title *Ghosts*.
 - b. Explain the significance of the symbol of *Ghosts* in the play.
 - c. Write a note on the process of discovery in *Ghosts*.
 - d. Analyse Ibsen's *Ghosts* as a critique of the nineteenth-century obsession with maintaining a facade of social responsibility.

2. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. Prepare a note on the social and historical context of Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*?
 - b. Describe elements within *Mother Courage and Her Children* that exhibit alienation.
 - c. What are some theatrical techniques that are unique to Brecht that he uses in *Mother Courage and Her Children*?
 - d. How is *Mother Courage and Her Children* a timely play for us today? Have we learnt the lesson of war?

3. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. Discuss *Waiting for Godot* as an absurd play.
 - b. Explain Beckett's play, *Waiting for Godot*, as tragicomedy.
 - c. Who is Godot in the play *Waiting for Godot*?
 - d. Comment on the literary aspect of the play *Waiting for Godot*, specifically imagery and rhetoric.

4. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. How does the use of symbols represent female dominance in *The Father* by Strindberg?
 - b. How much of an Aristotelian tragic hero do you consider the characters in August Strindberg's *The Father*?
 - c. *The Father* portrays the tragedy of a man and a woman struggling for the possession of their child. Elucidate.
 - d. What characterizes the Captain as a captain? In what ways does he act (or fail to act) with authority, as a military leader?

5. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. Why is the play *Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco considered absurdist?
 - b. Write a note on Narcissism and Hypocrisy in *Rhinoceros*.
 - c. How do the characters in *Rhinoceros* conform with the mob? What techniques and characterization are involved in this conformation?
 - d. Can Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* be seen as a study of European history through the individual mind?

Core-XI

1. Answer any **two** of the following. 8x2
 - a. Discuss significant epic conventions that are found in the *Iliad*.
 - b. What is the role of the gods in making or breaking heroes? How, when, and why do they intervene?
 - c. What epic elements do you find in Homer's *Iliad*?
 - d. In what ways are Achilles's and Agamemnon's characterizations of each other in Book 1 of the *Iliad* justified?

2. Answer any two of the following. 8x2
 - a. In *Oedipus Rex* what role does the Chorus play when it interacts with other characters?
 - b. How does the play *Oedipus the Rex* provide a catharsis?
 - c. What caused the downfall of Oedipus in *Oedipus Rex*, pride or anger?
 - d. How does Oedipus's fear of Laius's killer act as an example of foreshadowing?

3. Answer any two of the following. 8x2
 - a. What is the historical background to the original staging of the play?
 - b. What are the canonical messages and themes of the play?
 - c. To what extent does Aristophanes signal the victory of Aeschylus at the end of "The Frogs"?
 - d. Discuss the structure of the play's plot.

4. Answer any two of the following. 8x2
 - a. Analyse *Medea* as a tragic play.
 - b. How is *Medea* a proto-feminist play?
 - c. How does Euripides's play *Medea* provide the audience with the classical expectation of catharsis?
 - d. Discuss the role of the chorus in *Medea*.

5. Answer any two of the following. 8x2
 - a. Discuss the six constituent parts of tragedy.
 - b. What contribution did Aristotle make to theatre in his *Poetics*?
 - c. What does Aristotle mean by pleasure proper to tragedy?
 - d. In Aristotle's "Poetics," how is plot more important than characters in tragedy?

1. Answer any four of the following:

(04x04=16)

- a) Why does the narrator consider himself to be an “invisible man” in Ellison’s novel, *Invisible Man*?
- b) How do the white men humiliate the narrator before rewarding him with a briefcase containing the scholarship?
- c) Why does Nanny arrange for Janie’s marriage with Logan Killicks in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?
- d) Discuss the events that destroy the relationship between Janie Crawford and Jody Starks.
- e) What is the reason and purpose behind Shadrack’s ritual and observance of National Suicide Day in *Sula*?
- f) Comment on the structure of Alice Walker’s *The Colour Purple*.

OR

2. Answer all the questions from the following:

(02X08=16)

- a) Why does the narrator take Mr Norton to the Golden Day in Ralph Ellison’s novel?
- b) How does Bledsoe betray the narrator in *Invisible Man*?
- c) What is Janie’s reaction following the funeral of Jody Starks in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?
- d) Why do the people of Eatonville criticize the relationship between Janie and Tea Cake?
- e) How does Chicken Little’s death affect Nel and Sula’s relationship?
- f) Why does the town regard Sula as the personification of evil?
- g) How does friendship develop between Shug Avery and Celie in *The Colour Purple*?
- h) Why does Celie urge Harpo to beat Sofia?

Section-B

Answer all questions

(16X04=64)

- 3. In *Invisible Man*, how does racism act as an obstacle to individual identity?**

OR

What does ‘invisibility’ mean in the context of Ellison’s novel? Give examples of how the author depicts this invisibility within the story.

- 4. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is a novel that explores the themes of desire, love and independence. Discuss.**

OR

Janie Crawford's journey across the novel goes against the stereotypical depictions of the relationship between men and women. Do you agree? Justify your answer with suitable arguments.

5. Discuss the representation of women in Toni Morrison's novel, *Sula*.

OR

Sula revolves around the issues of race and racism. How does Morrison highlight the conflicting relationship between the African-Americans and the Whites?

6. In what ways are Nettie and Celie different? In what ways are they similar? Does Shug replace Nettie in Celie's life in *The Colour Purple*?

OR

The Colour Purple is a novel of violence and suffering. Discuss the manner in which the women characters become the victims of gender related violence and suffer at the hands of their male counterparts.

7. Answer any four of the following:

(04x04=16)

- g) How was *Desire Under the Elms* influenced by Greek myths and tragedy?
- h) What is the role of religion in O'Neill's play, *Desire Under the Elms*?
- i) Arthur Miller's play *Death of a Salesman* addresses loss of identity and a man's inability to accept change within himself and society. Discuss.
- j) Comment on the failure of the American Dream in *Death of a Salesman*.
- k) Discuss the antagonistic relationship between Blanche and Stanley in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.
- l) *Curse of the Starving Class* "balances dark comedy and biting satire in its look at a family fighting to stay alive". Discuss.

OR

8. Answer all the questions from the following:

(02X08=16)

- i) In *Desire Under the Elms*, why do Simeon and Peter choose to leave the Cabot farm?
- j) Why does Abbie kill the infant?
- k) Why does Willy Loman accuse Charley of cheating while playing cards?
- l) Why did Willy instruct Biff and Happy to steal some supplies from the construction site?
- m) How did Blanche DuBois lose the ancestral home, Belle Reve in *A Streetcar Named Desire*?
- n) Why does Blanche try to convince Stella to leave Stanley Kowalski?
- o) What events led Weston to break down the door in *Curse of the Starving Class*?
- p) Why does Emma threaten to run away from home with the horse?

Section-B

Answer all questions

(16X04=64)

9. Discuss the representation of women in *Desire Under the Elms*.

OR

Comment on the significance of the title of the play, *Desire Under the Elms*. What is the significance of desire on the part of the different characters in the play?

10. Arthur Miller manipulates time and space in *Death of a Salesman*. Discuss.

OR

What is the importance of memories in *Death of a Salesman*? How do flashbacks affect Willy Loman?

11. Tennessee Williams strikes a delicate balance between reality and fantasy in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Do you agree? Justify your answer with suitable arguments.

OR

Sketch the character of Blanche DuBois. How does it stand in contrast to the character of Stanley Kowalski?

12. Sam Shepard presents the image of a dysfunctional family in *Curse of the Starving Class*. Justify.

OR

Discuss the use of symbols by Sam Shepard and their significance in the play, *Curse of the Starving Class*.

13. Answer any four of the following:

(04x04=16)

- m) Fakir Mohan Senapati's *Six Acres and a Third* is a tale of greed. Discuss.
- n) What is the significance of Champa's character in *Six Acres and a Third*?
- o) Comment on the theme of religious intolerance in *Ice Candy Man*.
- p) Why do the Parsees choose to remain on the side lines of the religious conflict in *Ice Candy Man*.
- q) Why does Maya abandon her surgical training in *The Good Muslim*? What does she opt to do instead?
- r) Discuss the structure of J.M. Coetzee's novel, *Summertime*.

OR

14. Answer all the questions from the following:

(02X08=16)

- q) Why does Champa urge Saria to take a loan from Ramachandra Mangaraj in *Six Acres and a Third*?
- r) How does Saria die?
- s) Why is Lenny concerned about the twisted appearance of her foot in *Ice candy Man*?
- t) How does Tara Singh incite violence against the Muslims and Hindus in Sidhwa's novel?
- u) In *The Good Muslim*, why does Maya return to Dhaka from the countryside?
- v) What were the consequences when Maya convinced her friend to swim with her?
- w) Why does Julia enter into a relationship with John in Coetzee's novel, *Summertime*?
- x) Adriana considered John to be "an irritation, an embarrassment". Give the reason for her aversion.

Section-B

Answer all questions

(16X04=64)

- 15.** Fakir Mohan Senapati provides a picturesque account of rural India during the colonial times in *Six Acres and a Third*. Discuss.

OR

Six Acres and a Third is an exploration of human nature and its short comings. Do you agree? Justify your arguments with suitable reference to Senapati's novel.

16. Why does Sidhwa frequently allude to the symbolic image of “cracking India”? How does the novel *Ice Candy Man* reflect the damaged relationships between the ethnic and religious factions?

OR

What is the role of the ice candy man in Sidhwa’s novel? Discuss the evolution of his character as the novel progresses.

17. How does religion affect Maya’s life in *The Good Muslim*?

OR

What role does Zaid play in Anam’s novel, *The Good Muslim*? Examine the significance of Zaid’s character in the context of the relationship between Maya and Sohail.

18. What purpose does the biographer serve in *Summertime*?

OR

Summertime intermingles fiction and reality. What purpose does it serve in Coetzee’s novel?