

Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination, 2023

Semester – I (NEP)

English

| SECEN01| - Academic and Professional Writing and Composition 1

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions:

1. Write a letter to the Officer-in-Charge of your local police station to register a General Diary regarding the loss of your mobile phone.
2. Write a letter of complaint to the Marketing Manager of an online store about the delivery of a wrong set of books.
3. As the student representative of your department, draft the minutes of a meeting held about organizing a cultural event in your department.
4. Write an imaginary dialogue between you and your friend about the uniqueness of your university.
5. As the Registrar of Visva-Bharati, write an official memo stating that the newly admitted students in the MA programme should submit their migration certificates to the Examination Department within seven days.
6. Check the proof of the following lines and write the correct version of the text.

Little lamb who made the
dost thou know Who mOde thee
Gvc thee lifo& bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the meed;
Gave the clothing of Delight,
Softes clothing woly briOht;
Gave thee such a tender Voice,
MOking all the vales rejoice!
little Lamb who made thee
Dost Thou know who made thee

Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination 2023

Semester I

[MJEN01] – Reading Literature: Poetry

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 80

All questions are of equal value

Answer Question No. 1 and *any three* from the rest

1. a) Attempt a categorisation of the poems you have read in your syllabus in terms of form and theme. Discuss your categories.

Or

1. b) The poet is both present and absent in a poem. Discuss with reference to the poems in your syllabus.
2. Compare John Donne's 'The Good Morrow' and Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 116' as love poems.
3. Comment on the major images in William Blake's 'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger'.
4. How does the poet respond to death in William Wordsworth's 'Three Years She Grew'? Illustrate with references from the text.
5. Comment on the representation of war in Wilfred Owen's 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'.
6. How would you look at Henry Louis Vivian Derozio *or* A. K. Ramanujan as an Indian poet writing in English?

Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination, 2023

Semester I

[MJEN02] – Reading Literature: Prose

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 80

*All questions are of equal value
Answer any four questions*

1. Would you consider *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* as a work of fiction for children only? Justify your answer with reference to the text.
2. Mansfield's "The Fly" is a masterfully crafted short story. Do you agree? Discuss.
3. Discuss the three primary purposes of studies as outlined in Francis Bacon's essay "Of Studies."
4. Lamb blends humour and pathos in his essay "Dream Children: A Reverie." Do you agree? Discuss.
5. Discuss different kinds of writings published in journals.
6. a) The blog is a personal space for expressing opinions as well as for displaying expertise. Do you agree? Comment critically.

Or

6. b) The blog may also be called a digital-diary. Discuss briefly with suitable examples.

Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination 2024
Semester I
[MJEN01] - Reading Literature: Poetry

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 80

All questions are of equal value

Answer **Question no. 1** and *any three* from the rest

1. a) Can you apply a single definition of poetry to all the poems in your syllabus? Justify your answer.

Or,

b) What is unique to the language of poetry? Answer with illustrations from the texts in your syllabus.
2. Critically discuss Shakespeare's treatment of the themes of love, time and mutability in Sonnet 18.
3. a) Analyse how the structure of the sonnet is used by Milton to articulate the progress of emotions.

Or,

b) Write a note on the theme of *carpe diem* in Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress.'
4. a) The dramatic monologue formed an important part of Victorian poetry. Discuss with reference to the poems that you have read.

Or,

b) Critically assess Emily Dickinson's 'My Life had stood - a Loaded Gun' as a lyric.
5. a) Critically comment on the relation between the addresser and the addressee in Rabindranath Tagore's 'Thou hast made me endless'.

Or,

b) Consider Kamla Das's "An Introduction" as a confessional poem.
6. a) Analyse 'Masters of War' as a protest song.

Or,

b) Pink Floyd's *The Wall* is a resistance to conformity. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination 2024
Semester I
[MJEN02] - Reading Literature: Prose

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 80

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Critically examine the relationship between *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* and Rushdie's life and contemporary culture.
2. Write an essay with suitable textual references about the narrative style of Katherine Mansfield in "The Fly."
3. Discuss the balance Bacon proposes between reading, writing, and conversation in his essay "Of Studies."
4. In what ways does "Dream Children: A Reverie" blend autobiography and fiction? Discuss.
5. Discuss the structure and contents of a journal article.
6. Discuss how blogs/vlogs may help create a fictitious persona of the blogger/vlogger with reference to blogs/vlogs you have visited.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme with English Major Examination 2024
Semester I (NEP)
[SECEN01] – Essential Academic and Business Writing and Communication I

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. As a student representative of the Department draft the minutes of a meeting for organizing the annual sports of the Department.
2. Write a General Diary (GD) to your local police station complaining about your missing mobile phone.
3. Write an application to the General Manager of a bank in Santiniketan asking him/her to issue an ATM card to you.
4. Write a dialogue between a student and teacher regarding NEP 2020.
5. Write a letter of authorization to your father for the collection of your UG certificate on your behalf from the Principal of Bhasha Bhavana, Visva- Bharati.
6. Make a precis of the following passage and give a suitable title:

Trees give shade for the benefit of others, and while they themselves stand in the sun and endure the scorching heat, they produce the fruit of which others profit. The character of good men is like that of trees. What is the use of this perishable body if no use is made of it for the benefit of mankind? Sandalwood, the more it is rubbed, the more scent does it yield. Sugarcane, the more it is peeled and cut up into pieces, the more juice does it produce. The men who are noble at heart do not lose their qualities even in losing their lives. What matters whether men praise them or not? What difference does it make whether they die at this moment or whether lives are prolonged? Happen what may, those who tread in the right path will not set foot in any other. Life itself is unprofitable to a man who does not live for others. To live for the mere sake of living one's life is to live the life of dogs and crows. Those who lay down their lives for the sake of others will assuredly dwell forever in a world of bliss.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme, 2025
Semester I (NEP)
Multidisciplinary Course: English
MDEN01_English: Performance and Literature

For regular and back candidates

Time 3 hours

Full marks 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions

1. Analyse how the adaptation of literature to theatrical forms can reshape its meaning and its impact upon the audience. Use examples to illustrate your points.
2. Discuss how literature and theatre have influenced each other and how this relationship has evolved through different periods.
3. Examine the development of Indian theatre, tracing its journey from classical and traditional roots to the emergence of modern, experimental drama.
4. Discuss, with examples, how contemporary Indian playwrights reinterpret folktales to reflect current issues and themes.
5. Discuss the function of songs and the chorus in *Charandas Chor*.
6. a) Analyse the significance of Kanhailal's use of non-verbal, mime-based performance in *Pebet*.

Or,

- b) Examine the symbolic significance of the snake in the play *Nagamandala*.

Undergraduate Programme - English (Major) Examination 2025
Semester I (NEP)
[MJEN02] – Reading Literature: Prose

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 80

For regular and back candidates

All questions are of equal value
Answer any *four* questions

1. Critically evaluate the intertextual nature of *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.
2. Discuss the significance of symbols and free indirect discourse in Katherine Mansfield's short story 'The Fly'.
3. Discuss in detail how Bacon's 'Of Studies' explores the theme of self-improvement.
4. Discuss Lamb's 'Dream Children' as a personal essay.
5. Examine the significance of journal articles and discuss the ethical importance of maintaining citation and referencing.
6. Evaluate blogs/vlogs as a contemporary narrative mode.

Undergraduate Programme - English (Major) Examination 2025
Semester I (NEP)

MJEN01 – Reading Literature: Poetry

Time: Three Hours

For regular and back candidates

Full Marks: 80

All questions are of equal value

Answer Question No. 1 and *any three* from the rest

1. a) Do you think that the poet as a person is always present in the poetry written by her/him? Justify your answer with references from the texts in your syllabus.
Or
b) How do poetic form and content complement each other? Substantiate your answer with special reference to at least two forms of poetry you have studied.
2. Critically comment on the theme of love in either a Shakespeare sonnet *or* a Metaphysical poem that you have read.
3. a) The poet moves from despair to acceptance in Milton's 'On His Blindness'. Do you agree? Justify your response.
Or
b) 'The Village Schoolmaster' by Oliver Goldsmith is a nostalgic portrayal of a fading way of life in contemporary England. Justify your answer with references from the text.
4. a) Discuss Wordsworth's representation of rustic life in either 'The Solitary Reaper' or 'Three years she grew'.
Or
b) Blake's poems 'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger' embody contrary states of the human soul. Justify.
5. a) Critically assess either Nissim Ezekiel or Kamala Das as a poet exploring 'Indian' themes and 'Indian' English.
Or
b) How does Derozio express his love for his country in the poem(s) prescribed in your syllabus?
6. a) Discuss Emily Dickinson's imagery in 'My Life had stood – a Loaded Gun'.
Or
b) How does G. M. Hopkins contest ideas about the 'loss of faith' in Victorian England? Discuss with reference to 'Pied Beauty'.
Or
c) How do the human and the divine interact in Rabindranath Tagore's 'Thou hast made me endless'? Discuss critically.
7. a) Would you consider Wilfred Owen's 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' to be an elegy? Substantiate your answer with suitable references from the poem.
Or
b) Critically analyse Bob Dylan's 'Masters of War' as an anti-war song.

Four-Year Undergraduate Programme with English (Major) Examination, 2025
Semester-I (NEP)

English

[SECEN01] – Essential Academic and Business Writing and Communication I

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer any four questions

1. Write a letter to the Officer-in-Charge of your local police station to register a general diary regarding the loss of your original Aadhaar Card.
2. Write an imaginary dialogue between yourself and a friend about the salient features of the NEP.
3. As the student representative of your department, draft the minutes of a recent meeting about organizing a debate competition in your Bhavana.
4. Write an application to the Branch Manager of your nearest bank for reopening your dormant Savings Bank account.
5. Write a letter to the Headmaster or Principal of your school authorising your mother to collect your original school-leaving certificate.
6. Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

In the modern world, education is no longer confined to classrooms or limited to the early years of life. Rapid technological advancement, globalisation, and changing professional demands have made lifelong learning an essential necessity rather than a personal choice. Knowledge acquired during formal education often becomes outdated within a few years, compelling individuals to constantly update their skills and understanding.

Lifelong learning enhances not only professional competence but also personal growth. It nurtures curiosity, adaptability, and critical thinking—qualities required to navigate an increasingly complex world. People who continue to learn remain intellectually active and socially engaged, contributing positively to their communities. Moreover, lifelong learning promotes equality by providing opportunities for those who may have missed formal education earlier in life to improve their prospects.

The digital revolution has greatly facilitated lifelong learning. Online courses, open educational resources, and virtual classrooms have removed barriers of age, geography, and cost. However, access alone does not guarantee effective learning. Self-discipline, motivation, and guidance are crucial to ensure meaningful engagement with knowledge.

Despite its benefits, lifelong learning faces several challenges. Socio-economic inequalities, lack of digital literacy, and insufficient institutional support often discourage individuals from pursuing further education. Governments and educational institutions must therefore create inclusive policies and learning environments that encourage continuous education for all sections of society.

Undergraduate Examination, 2023
Semester-I
CVAC: Tagore Studies (NEP)
(For Regular candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Marks on the right-hand margin are indicative of the values of the questions.

1. Answer the following questions in **complete** sentences (*any 15*) **15×1=15**
 - a. What is the name of Tagore's mother?
 - b. With whom did Tagore make his first trip to the Himalayas?
 - c. Who, among Tagore's relatives, became the first Indian I.C.S.?
 - d. Name the first school in which Tagore was admitted.
 - e. One of Tagore's elder sisters was a famous novelist of her time. Name her.
 - f. In which year was Tagore's opera named *Valmiki Pratibha* published?
 - g. What was the name of Tagore's wife before her marriage?
 - h. What is the name of Tagore's first child?
 - i. In which year was the Santiniketan *Brahmacharyashram* founded?
 - j. In which year did Tagore receive the Nobel Prize?
 - k. Who wrote the 'Introduction' to *Gitanjali: Song Offerings*?
 - l. In response to which incidence did Tagore renounce the Knighthood?
 - m. Where was the rural reconstruction centre established in 1922?
 - n. In which foreign city was the first-ever exhibition of Tagore's paintings held?
 - o. In which year was the Cheena Bhavana established?
 - p. Whom did Tagore name 'Vijaya'?
 - q. What is the title of Tagore's last birthday address?
 - r. Write the date of Tagore's demise according to the Gregorian calendar.
2. Write short notes on *any three (3)* of the following topics with not more than **75 words** for each. **3×5=15**
 - a) Tagore's childhood,
 - b) Tagore's first voyage to Europe,
 - c) The significance of the Shelaidaha phase of Tagore's life,
 - d) Kala Bhavana and Sangit Bhavana,
 - e) Santiniketan *Brahmacharyashram*,
 - f) The importance of Buddhadeva in Tagore's philosophy.
3. Answer *any two* of the following questions. **2×15=30**
 - a. Discuss how the experience of watching the sunrise from the Sudder Street house impacted Tagore's mind.
 - b. Write briefly about Tagore's project of the rural reconstruction centre in Sriniketan.
 - c. Write the main subject matter of 'Asrama Education' in your own words, a text included in your syllabus.
 - d. Following the essay, "The Message of India's History," write a comparative analysis of Indian and European civilisations.
 - e. Write about Tagore's feelings for the earth as expressed in the text "The Earth."

Undergraduate Programme with English Examination 2024
Semester I (NEP)
English
Multidisciplinary Course (MDE001)
Performance and Literature

Time: 3 hours

Full Mark: 50

Questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Explore the relationship between literature and theatre and how it has evolved over time.
2. How has modern Indian theatre evolved from traditional theatre forms to contemporary experimental plays? Discuss.
3. Discuss how modern Indian dramatists reinterpret myths and folktales to address contemporary issues.
4. Discuss how irony functions in *Charandas Chor* to highlight the contradictions in society.
5. Discuss how *Nagamandala* critiques the treatment of women in a patriarchal society through Rani's journey.
6. How does stagecraft contribute to the overall impact of a theatrical production? Discuss with references to the plays you have watched.

Undergraduate Examination, 2024
Semester-I
CVAC: Tagore Studies (NEP)
(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the right-hand margin.

1. Answer the following question (*any fifteen*): 15 × 1 = 15
 - a. Write the name of Tagore's grandfather.
 - b. In which year was Debendranath born?
 - c. One of Tagore's elder brothers was a famous playwright. Who was he?
 - d. What is the name of Tagore's first published book of poems?
 - e. In which year did Tagore make his first-ever journey to England?
 - f. Write the name of Tagore's eldest son.
 - g. Tagore wrote a famous play based on the history of Tripura. What is its name?
 - h. "He is a man and no machine." Who is referred to as 'he'?
 - i. Write the name of any one member of the first group of teachers of Santiniketan *brahmacharyashram*.
 - j. "A daughter of the gods though I am, I do not have the powers of a god." Write the name of the text from which this sentence is taken.
 - k. In which year did Tagore dedicate "Visva-Bharati" to the people of India?
 - l. Write the date of the celebration of *Gandhi-punyaha* in Visva-Bharati.
 - m. To which event, as a mark of protest, did Tagore give up his 'knighthood'?
 - n. Write the name of the Bengali commemorative volume published on the occasion of Tagore's seventieth birthday.
 - o. Write the name of the center set up in Surul *Kuthibari*.
 - p. What is the title of Tagore's last public lecture?
 - q. Where did Tagore breathe his last?
 - r. Write the name of Tagore's last novel.

2. Write short-notes (*any three*): 3 × 5 = 15
 - a. Hindu *Mela* and the Tagore family
 - b. Tagore's first trip to the Himalayas.
 - c. Santiniketan *brahmacharyashram*
 - d. Sriniketan
 - e. Tagore's experience of watching the sunrise from the Sudder Street house during the composition of the poem "Morning Song".
 - f. Tagore's foreign travels.

3. Answer *any two* of the following questions: 2 × 15 = 30
 - a. Write an essay on Tagore's feelings as delineated in the text, 'The Earth'.
 - b. Analyse what Tagore means by the 'sense of harmony' element in the Indian civilization.
 - c. Discuss, based on "Asrama Education," how Tagore envisions the role of the Guru of the Asrama.
 - d. Write about Tagore's views on Buddhadev.
 - e. Discuss Tagore's aims and objectives that were instrumental in the foundation of Visva-Bharati.

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Undergraduate Examination, 2025
Semester-I
CVAC: Tagore Studies (NEP)
(For Regular Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the right-hand margin.

1. Answer **any fifteen** of the following questions in complete sentences: 15×1=15
- Who was Tagore's chief foreign associate in the establishment of Sriniketan?
 - What is the name of Rabindranath's mother?
 - Which of Rabindranath's elder brothers was the well-known author of *Swapnaprayan*?
 - Which is the first published poem that names Rabindranath as its author?
 - What was Rabindranath's wife Mrinalini Devi called before her marriage?
 - Which year was Sikshasatra established in?
 - Which festival is held in Sriniketan to pay respect to agriculture?
 - Which foreign student was the first to arrive in Santiniketan?
 - What is the Bengali title of the volume published to commemorate Rabindranath's seventieth birth anniversary?
 - Who was the first to confer the title "Visvakavi" on Rabindranath Tagore?
 - Whom is the book of poems titled *Puravi* dedicated to?
 - What is the name of Rabindranath's youngest son who died very young?
 - Who wrote the Introduction to the English *Gitanjali*?
 - Who was the first principal of Hindi Bhavana?
 - Where were Tagore's paintings first exhibited?
 - "I now began to see with the whole of my consciousness." Which text is this sentence taken from?
 - What according to Buddhadeva should anger be overcome with?
 - "Providence has attracted people of various races to India." Which prose-extract by Tagore is that statement taken from?
2. Write a short note each on **any three** of the following topics: 3×5=15
- Dwarkanath Tagore
 - Rabindranath's early education
 - Rabindranath and the *Swadeshi* movement
 - Rabindranath's vision for rural reconstruction
 - Tagore's plays
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions: 2×15=30
- Write briefly what experience of sunset and sunrise Rabindranath describes in "Morning Songs".
 - Answer with reference to the prose-text you have studied why Rabindranath loved the earth.
 - Write an outline of Tagore's thoughts on *ashrama* education.
 - Describe the principal festivals celebrated at Visva-Bharati. Outline the key ideas that inspired Tagore to initiate these festivals.
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