

Four-Year Undergraduate Programme Examination, 2026
English (Major)
Semester IV (NEP)
MJEN10: British Literature 18th Century

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Questions are of equal value.

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

1. a) The 'individual' as a sociopolitical category was central to the English novel in the early eighteenth century. Do you agree? Justify your answer with references to different forms and stylistic features of the novel.
Or
b) The prose of the eighteenth century deals with major debates within the public sphere. Discuss.
2. Based on your reading of the essays from *The Spectator* included in your syllabus how would you define the class location and social function of the periodical? Justify your answer with relevant examples from the texts.
3. *Gulliver's Travels* uses fantasy to satirise contemporary England. Discuss.
4. Would you consider *Robinson Crusoe* to be a utopian text? Substantiate your answer with suitable references from the text.
5. "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" anticipates Romantic sensibilities. Discuss critically.
6. a) Analyse the proviso scene in *The Way of the World*. How does Congreve use wit and negotiation to comment on marriage and social relations?
Or
b) Discuss how Congreve's *The Way of the World* engages with the Restoration comedy tradition.

Four-Year Undergraduate Programme Examination, 2026
English (Major)
Semester IV (NEP)
MJEN 09: British Poetry and Drama – 17th to 18th Century

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Questions are of equal value.

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

1. a) The poetry of the late seventeenth and the early eighteenth-century reflects the dominant socio-political concerns of the age. Discuss.
Or
b) Examine the role of satire in late seventeenth and early eighteenth-century English literature.
2. In what ways does Ben Jonson use the Comedy of Humours to critique human nature and societal pretensions in *The Alchemist*? Provide examples from the play.
3. a) Comment on the Miltonic notion of fall with special reference to Satan in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.
Or
b) Do you think Satan's narrative in *Paradise Lost*, Book I, serves Milton's declared aim of justifying "the ways of God to men"? Justify your answer.
4. How does Pope feminise and aestheticise the mock epic in *The Rape of the Lock*? Discuss.
5. How does Dryden create Shadwell as a figure of poor poetry and nonsense in *Mac Flecknoe*?
6. Compare and contrast the treatment of themes such as power, corruption, and societal values in Jonson, Dryden, and Pope.

**Four-Year Undergraduate Programme
Semester IV (NEP) Examination, 2026
Minor Course: English
MNEN02_English: Studying Literature: Drama & Prose**

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

All questions are of equal value

Answer *any four* questions

1. Write short notes on *any four*: 4X5
personal essay, dramatic irony, autobiography, subjective/ objective, comic relief, foreshadowing
2. 'This is Water' offers a philosophy of everyday life that can make life happier and more meaningful. How far would you agree? Justify your answer.
3. Explain how the title *The Bear* reflects human emotion through Smirnov and Popova's bear-like stubbornness and ferocity.
4. Critically analyse the characteristics of the modern short story that you find in O. Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi'.
5. How does 'Shooting an Elephant' capture the crisis of colonial authority? Discuss.
6. Alice Walker's 'Everyday Use' is about two different approaches to one's own culture. Do you agree? Justify your answer with references from the text.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme 2025
English (Major)
Semester IV
MJEN10: British Literature 18th Century

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

Questions are of equal value

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

1. (a) "The city is a major character in the literature of the eighteenth century". Do you agree? Substantiate your response.

Or

- (b) "Travel is a major theme in the literature of the eighteenth century". Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the texts prescribed in your syllabus.

2. Comment on the composition and significance of the Spectator Club in *The Coverley Papers*.
3. Gray's "Elegy" represents the poet as being on the margins of society. Discuss.
4. In *Robinson Crusoe* religion and economy complement each other. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Comment on the use of different levels of satire in *Gulliver's Travels*, Book I.
6. a) Analyse the themes of love, marriage, and social status in *The Way of the World*, while also reflecting on Congreve's critique of 18th-century society.
- Or
- b) Dr. Johnson uses the satire on the city to launch into political satire in "London". Discuss.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme 2025
English (Major)
Semester IV
MJEN09: British Poetry and Drama - 17th to 18th Century

Full Marks: 80

Time: 3 Hours

Questions are of equal value

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

1. (a) "The literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries represent major social changes"? Do you agree? Substantiate your response.
Or
(b) "The literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries make copious use of classical literary forms". Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the texts prescribed in your syllabus.
2. Discuss the use of satire in *The Alchemist*, addressing how Jonson critiques the gullibility of human beings and the societal pretensions of his time.
3. Comment on Milton's use of Classical and Christian motifs in the Invocation in *Paradise Lost*, Book I.
4. Comment on the presentation of the coronation scene in *MacFlecknoe*.
5. "*The Rape of the Lock* is marked by a celebration of colonial riches pouring into England". Do you agree? Justify your response.
6. "Dryden and Pope use different strategies in their use of the mock heroic". Discuss with reference to *MacFlecknoe* and *The Rape of the Lock*.

Four Year Undergraduate Programme 2025
English (Major)
Semester IV
MJEN08 English: British Poetry and Drama - 14th-17th Centuries

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks 80

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer any *three* from the rest.

1.a) Write an essay on the Elizabeth stage and acting conventions with references from at least two plays.

Or

b) How did Renaissance humanist education help in shaping Elizabethan plays? Write with reference to at least three instances.

2. The "General Prologue" to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* presents a wide cross section of medieval English society. Comment critically.

3. The setting, action and plot used in Elizabethan sonnets create a false sense of female agency. Discuss with reference to Spenser's poems.

4. Donne's poems of love and faith show a concern with power. Would you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

5. In *Macbeth* the killing of Duncan is not merely regicide but a violation of a moral order. Would you agree? Comment with instances.

6. In *The Merchant of Venice*, Portia saves the life of Antonio and establishes that she is the real 'hero' of the play. Would you agree? Justify

Four Year Undergraduate Programme 2025
English (Major)
Semester IV
MJEN/7: Indian Fiction in English

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 80

Questions are of equal value.

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

1. a) Give a critical account of the development of Indian Fiction in English.

Or

b) Indian Fiction in English is by and large an urban middle-class literary phenomenon. Would you agree? Discuss with reference to the texts you have been taught.

2. *Swami and Friends* combines several Western and Indian literary and discursive elements. Discuss critically.
3. Arundhati Roy replaces collective political action with personal transgression in *The God of Small Things*. Would you agree? Justify your position with suitable references from the text.
4. Evaluate *The Hungry Tide* as an example of postcolonial fiction.
5. How do the short stories you have been taught engage with the idea of Indianness? Elucidate.
6. How does the empire write back through an indigenisation of the English language and English literary conventions? Answer with reference to the texts in your syllabus.