

The forest of Burnham Beeches stretched like a great pool of darkness towards the bright shore of the western sky. Crimson at the horizon, the last of the sunset faded, through orange, upwards into yellow and a pale watery green. Northwards, beyond and above the trees, the Internal and External Secretions factory glared with a fierce electric brilliance from every window of its twenty stories. Beneath them lay the buildings of the Golf Club-the huge Lower Caste barracks and, on the other side of a dividing wall, the smaller houses reserved for Alpha and Beta members. The approaches to the monorail station

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B.A. (Hons.) EXAMINATION, 2025

(Sixth Semester)

(Regular & Re-appear)

ENGLISH

Paper XIV

Modern British Literature-II

Time : 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 80

Before answering the question-paper, candidates must ensure that they have been supplied with correct and complete question-paper. No complaint, in this regard will be entertained after the examination.

Note : Attempt all questions.

Section A

1. Explain with reference to the context of the following : 6

- (a) No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was
meant to be;
Am an attendant lord, one that will do
To swell a progress, start a scene or two,
Advise the prince; no doubt, an easy
tool,
Deferential, glad to be of use,
Politic, cautious, and meticulous;
Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;
At times, indeed, almost ridiculous-
Almost, at times, the Fool.

Or

I have seen them riding seaward on the
waves
Combing the white hair of the waves
blown back

When the wind blows the water white
and black.
We have lingered in the chambers
of the sea
By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed red
and brown
Till human voices wake us, and we
drown.

- (b) Read the passage and answer the
questions given below : 6

Lenina and Henry climbed into their
machine and started off. At eight hundred
feet Henry slowed down the helicopter
screws, and they hung for a minute or
two poised above the fading landscape.

his neck. Opening a box, he spilt a cloud of scented powder. His hands were floury with the stuff. He wiped them on his chest, on his shoulders, on his bare arms. Delicious perfume! He shut his eyes; he rubbed his cheek against his own powdered arm. Touch of smooth skin against his face, scent in his nostrils of musky dust-her real presence. "Lenina," he whispered. 'Lenina!'

Questions :

- (i) Who looked through the window and why ?
- (ii) What was there in the green suitcase ?

were black with the ant-like pullulation of lower-caste activity. From under the glass vault a lighted train shot out into the open. Following its southeasterly course across the dark plain their eyes were drawn to the majestic buildings of the Slough Crematorium. For the safety of night-flying planes, its four tall chimneys were flood-lighted and tipped with crimson danger signals. It was a landmark.

Questions :

- (i) What happened when Henry slowed down the helicopter screws ?
- (ii) Describe the Burnham Beeches forest.

- (iii) Describe the Northwards sight.
- (iv) What arrangements were made for the security of the night-flying planes ?

Or

Half an hour later it occurred to him to look through the window. The first thing he saw was a green suit-case, with the initials L.C. painted on the lid. Joy flared up like fire within him. He picked up a stone. The smashed glass tinkled on the floor. A moment later he was inside the room. He opened the green suit-case; and all at once he was breathing Lenina's

perfume, filling his lungs with her essential being. His heart beat wildly; for a moment he was almost faint. Then, bending over the precious box, he touched, he lifted into the light, he examined. The zippers on Lenina's spare pair of viscose velveteen shorts were at first a puzzle, then solved, a delight. Zip, and then zip; zip, and then zip; he was enchanted. Her green slippers were the most beautiful things he had ever seen. He unfolded a pair of zippicamiknicks, blushed, put them hastily away again; but kissed a perfumed acetate handkerchief and wound a scarf round

5. Discuss the ways in which Huxley critiques societal control and conformity in Brave New World. How do the characters like John, Bernard, and Helmholtz rebel against or struggle within the World State's structure ?

Or

Explore the theme of freedom *versus* stability in Brave New World. Does the World State's focus on stability come at the cost of individual liberty and the ability to experience genuine emotions and relationships ?

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- (iii) What did he feel touching the objects of the suit-case ?
- (iv) Describe the sensuous imagery of the passage.

Section B

2. Attempt any *Six* of the given questions : **6×4=24**

- (i) What does J. Alfred Prufrock's name connote ? How would you characterize him ?
- (ii) What is it that Prufrock wants to do ? Where is he going ? What does he want to do when he gets there ?
- (iii) What are the similarities or differences between Prufrock and Hamlet ?

(iv) What role does time play in this poem ?
Are there concrete examples of this or merely hints ?

(v) Is "Brave New World" believable ? Do you think its main events could really take place ?

(vi) What do you think of the roles of freemartins in the World State ? Are they an oppressed group ?

(vii) Compare/contrast Bernard with John (the Savage).

(viii) What are the sexual norms of the World State ?

3. Attempt any *two* of the following selecting at least *one* from each Unit : $2 \times 7 = 14$

(i) Analysis of Genre, Tone, and Title Interpretation in T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

(ii) What is the importance of the title ?

(iii) How do you feel about the use of the drug soma in the novel ? Would you take soma if it were available ?

4. Discuss the use of dramatic monologue in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and its reflection of Prufrock's character, Modernist elements, and deviations from traditional forms.

Or

Discuss "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" as the depiction of the human condition and the impact of the human body on human nature.

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