

2006**ENGLISH****FOURTH PAPER**

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

*Write the answers to the two Halves in
separate books*

FIRST HALF

1. Answer any *four* of the following in approximately 500 words each : 10x4=40
- (a) Write a note on the rhetorical effectiveness of Bacon's essays, paying special attention to the way he begins and ends these essays.
- (b) Would you agree that the appeal of *Genesis* lies as much in the choice of imagery and diction as in the spiritual and moral message? Give reasons for your answer.

1/7----1000/43

(Turn Over)

- (c) Do you think that Dr. Johnson succeeds in preserving the canons of good sense and objectivity in the *Lives*? Choose any two of the prescribed essays to base your answer on.
- (d) Do you think that the remoteness of Milton's age hampers an appreciation of *Areopagitica*? Give a well-considered response.
- (e) Account for the undiminished popularity of Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, considering aspects such as humour, evocation of the personal and intimate, and choice of phrase and words.

SECOND HALF

2. Answer any *two* of the following questions 14x2=28
- (a) Discuss the blending of humour and pathos in Lamb's essays with special reference to *Dream Children*, *The South-Sea House* and *My Relations*. 14
- (b) Consider Hazlitt as an essayist with special reference to the essays prescribed for you. 14

1/7----1000/43

(Continued)

(3)

- (c) Summarise Carlyle's views on Shakespeare. In what sense is Shakespeare a hero? 9+5= 14
- (d) Evaluate Lytton Strachey's achievement as a biographer with special reference to *Queen Victoria*. 14
- (e) Comment on the theme and style of Huxley's essay *Wordsworth in the Tropics*. 14
- (f) Make, after Russell, an attempt to analyse the state of mind from which mystical logic has arisen. 14
- (g) "One of the most important developments in England during the past twenty years has been the upward and downward extension of the middle class." (*Orwell*.) Discuss. 14

3. Explain any *two* of the following passages with reference to their contexts : 6x2= 12

- (a) "We are only what might have been, and must wait upon the tedious shores of Lethe millions of ages before we have existence and a name."
- (b) Coleridge in truth met me half-way on the ground of philosophy, or I should not have been won over to his imaginative creed.

(4)

- (c) And so in this Dante, as we said, had ten silent centuries, in a very strange way, found a voice. The *Divina Commedia* is of Dante's writing; yet in truth it belongs to ten Christian centuries, only the finishing of it is Dante's.
- (d) But the greatest men who have been philosophers have felt the need both of science and mysticism : the attempt to harmonize the two was what made their life, and what always must, for all its arduous uncertainty, make philosophy, to some minds, a greater thing than either science or religion.

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