

ST. JOSEPH'S EVENING COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

II SEMESTER M.A. [ENGLISH] EXAMINATIONS - APRIL 2019

EUROPEAN CLASSICS REVISITED II

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Max. Marks: 70

I. Answer the following question in about 200 words: 15 Marks

1. Is there a specific sense in which European Literature is identifiably different from English Literature? Give reasons for your answer and provide illustrations where appropriate from the texts you have studied this semester.

II. Answer the following in about 150 words each: 3x10=30 Marks

2. What sort of mirror does Boccaccio hold up to his world? What discoveries might we make there that remind us of our own?
3. Comment on Rousseau's choice of the word Confessions for the title of his autobiography. How does he extend the term from its religious connotations?
4. Does the extract you have read allow you to see why Goethe is thought of as a great writer? Explain.

III. Read the given extracts below and answer the questions that follow: 3x5=15 Marks

5. In Holy Russia all is thus contaminated with the love of imitation; every man imitates and copies his superior. They even say that a certain titular councillor, when promoted to the head of some small separate room, immediately partitioned off a private room for himself, called it the audience chamber, and posted at the door a lackey with red collar and braid, who grasped the handle of the door and opened to all comers; though the audience chamber could hardly hold an ordinary writing-table.

a. Which text is this extract taken from? What effect is the author aiming for?

6. Thy heart by one sole impulse is possess'd;
Unconscious of the other still remain!
Two souls, alas! are lodg'd within my breast,
Which struggle there for undivided reign:
One to the world, with obstinate desire,
And closely-cleaving organs, still adheres;
Above the mist, the other doth aspire,
With sacred vehemence, to purer spheres.

a. Which work is this quote from? What does it reveal to us about the speaker?

7. Get married? Why not? I suppose
It's not the lightest of decisions.
But then I'm young; my health is strong;
I'm ready to work hard and long;
We'll find a place that can be rented
And build a simple, homely nest: Parasha will be well contented.
And after some time, if we're blessed
With children, and I get promotion, I can entrust to her devotion
Child-rearing and the household tasks ...

a. Identify work, and speaker. How are these lines relevant in terms of the events following this moment in the text?

IV. Read this short passage and evaluate it in terms of the texts from your syllabus that it applies to. Your response should not exceed 200 words. (10 marks)

Satire offers us a sense of the gap between what is and what ought to be. It reminds us not to settle for second-best, or worse. In that sense, satire calls to the better versions of our selves, albeit through laughter and wit.