

M.A. DEGREE (C.S.S.) EXAMINATION, MARCH 2015**First Semester**

Faculty of Language and Literature

Branch I—English

PC 2—WRITINGS OF RENAISSANCE

(2012 Admission onwards)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum Weight : 30

Part AI. Answer any *five* of the following, each in a *paragraph* of about 50 words :

- 1 Philip Sidney's "aesthetic condemnation" of the theatre of his time.
- 2 Comedy of humors.
- 3 The character of Mephistophilis and the concept of hell.
- 4 The elements of Carnavalesque in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- 5 Bacon's observation on parents and children.
- 6 Metaphysical poetry.
- 7 The main themes of "Prothalamion".
- 8 The character of the Cardinal in *The Duchess of Malfi*.

(5 × 1 = 5)

Part BII. Write short essays of about 100 words on any *five* of the following :—

- 9 Discuss the idea of "self-fashioning" as described by Greenblatt.
- 10 The significance of the play-within-the-play in *Hamlet*,
- 11 The staging of *Richard II* of Shakespeare was an attempt to use theatre to subvert authority. Explain with reference to the arguments of Dollimore.
- 12 The main features of Shakespeare's Sonnets.
- 13 Corruption and misuse of power in *The Duchess of Malfi*.
- 14 Discuss the status of women in *Utopia*.
- 15 "To His Coy Mistress" and the *carpe diem* tradition.
- 16 The behaviour of audience in different ages and cultures as illustrated by J.D. Wilson.

(5 × 2 = 10)

Turn over

Part C

III. Write Essays of about 300 words on any *three* of the following :—

- 17 Discuss the impact of New Historicism and Cultural Materialism on our perceptions of the writings of the renaissance.
- 18 Shakespeare's Sonnets de-romanticize the idea of love. Discuss.
- 19 What is the status of religion in Thomas More's *Utopia* ? How does the Utopian form of religion imply criticism of European religious customs ?
- 20 "There is no such thing as a human nature independent of culture." Elaborate the idea in the light of the notion of "Renaissance self-fashioning" as explained by Greenblatt.
- 21 Doctor Faustus is the "archetypal Renaissance man, transfigured by new knowledge and new discoveries." Elucidate.
- 22 "[A] thought to Donne was an experience; it modified his sensibility." Elaborate.

(3 × 5 = 15)