

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 2, 2018

ENG 3268 – Poetry of the Victorian Era

Two Hours

Answer THREE (03) questions, choosing one from each Part.

Part A

Either

1. 'Though not necessarily set in a Victorian context, many of Robert Browning's poems deal with the tension between private and social concerns in the Victorian era.' Critically evaluate this statement in relation to **any three** poems by Robert Browning.

Or

2. 'The process of remembering is a significant feature of Robert Browning's poetry.' Analyse this statement through a close reading of **any three** poems by Robert Browning.

Part B

Either

3. With detailed reference to **any three** poems, discuss how Elizabeth Barrett Browning uses poetry as a vehicle for social reform.

Or

4. Elizabeth Barrett Browning believed that an artist's responsibility was to represent the age in which she lived. Critically examine how this responsibility is explored in Barrett Browning's work, with reference to **any three** poems of your choice.

Part C

Either

5. Would you agree with the view that, despite their apparent simplicity, Christina Rossetti's poems are driven by a desire to break away from the restrictions of a male poetic tradition? Support your argument through a close reading of **any three poems** by Rossetti.

Or

6. Discuss the concepts of love and betrayal in Christina Rossetti's poetry with reference to **any three poems** in your answer.
