

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English), Year 3, Semester 1, 2017/18

ENG 3165 – The Romantic Age

Two Hours

Answer all THREE (03) questions

1.

**EITHER**

(a) “Wordsworth is above all the poet of the remembrance of things past...Some object or event in the present triggers a sudden renewal of feelings he had experienced in youth; the result is a poem exhibiting the sharp discrepancy between...himself as he is now and as he once was”. Critically engage with this statement referring to **any three (03)** of Wordsworth’s poems.

**OR**

(b) In his *Preface to the Lyrical Ballads*, Wordsworth notes that “it will be the wish of the poet to bring his feelings near to those of the persons whose feelings he describes; nay...perhaps, to let himself slip into an entire delusion, and even confound and identify his own feelings with theirs”. Examine this statement with regard to **any three (03)** of Wordsworth’s poems.

2.

**EITHER**

(a) “Shelley’s poetry carries a generous and impulsive sympathy with [hu]mankind...a constant effort to understand and to alleviate the miseries of his fellow [human beings]”. Critically engage with this statement referring to **any three (03)** of Shelley’s poems.

**OR**

(b) According to Shelley, “Despair is self-fulfilling; we must continue to hope because, by keeping open the possibility of a better future, hope releases the imaginative and creative powers that are the only means of achieving that end”. Discuss this statement with regard to **any three (03)** of Shelley’s poems.

3.

**EITHER**

(a) Critically engage with the statement that “Keats’s poems follow a pattern of movement from the everyday world, into a higher realm, and end with a return to the mundane with an altered consciousness”. Refer to **any three (03)** of Keats’s poems in your answer.

**OR**

(b) “Keats’s poems carry a concreteness of description in which all the senses...combine to give the total apprehension of an experience...the poet seeming to lose his own identity in a total identification with the object he contemplates”. Discuss this statement referring to **any three (03)** of Keats’s poems.

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