

2018

(November)

ENGLISH

(Major)

Course : 502

(Criticism—I)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32/24

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer any *eight* of the following questions :

1×8=8

(a) What, according to Aristotle, makes human beings different from other animals?

(b) Aristotle, in his *Poetics*, mentions that Homer also wrote a comedy. What was it?

(c) Who translated Longinus's *On the Sublime* for the first time?

- (d) How many elements, according to Aristotle, does a tragedy have that distinguish it from other literary works?
- (e) To whom was the essay *On the Sublime* addressed?
- (f) Why, according to Longinus, was he refraining from giving a long preliminary definition of sublimity?
- (g) *An Apology for Poetry* carried a second title, what was it?
- (h) Who taught Sidney that "self love is better than any gliding to make that seem gorgeous wherein ourselves be parties"?
- (i) Which school does Samuel Johnson belong to—Renaissance, Neoclassic or Romantic criticism?
- (j) Name the periodical to which Dr. Samuel Johnson contributed many of his essays and articles.

UNIT—I

2. (a) What, according to Aristotle, are the essential characteristics of a plot with reference to its definition as a mimesis (imitation) of a whole action? What are the elements of a plot? 10+5=15

Or

- (b) How does Aristotle define and elaborate excellence in tragedy? 15

UNIT—II

3. (a) What, according to Longinus, are the faults that hinder the achievement of sublimity in literature? 15

Or

- (b) What, according to Longinus, are the sources of sublimity? 15

UNIT—III

4. (a) How does Sidney examine the state of his contemporary English poetry? 15

Or

- (b) Examine how and why Sidney levelled the charge of 'ungratefulness' against the vocal critics of poetry. How does he justify his claim that poetry is 'superior' to all other branches of knowledge? 10+5=15

UNIT—IV

5. (a) Critically examine Samuel Johnson's *Preface to Shakespeare* as a piece of literary criticism. Did he do justice to Shakespeare's greatness as a writer? 10+5=15

Or

- (b) What, according to Johnson, are the merits and demerits of Shakespeare? 15

6. Answer any *three* of the following questions :

4×3=12

- (a) Examine how Aristotle made a well-reasoned rebuttal of Plato's charges against poetry.
- (b) How does Longinus answer the question whether there is an art of sublimity or profundity?
- (c) Briefly explain what made Sidney embark upon writing a long treatise in defence of poetry.
- (d) How does Johnson defend the so-called breach of the three unities in the plays of Shakespeare?
