

Answer Key

Paper: Poetry I (AS-2675) of B.A. English (H) III Semester Examination 2013

Q 1. i. f) The third ii. a) Milton iii. c) Donne iv. 1821 v. a) Shelley vi. f) Eliot
vii. c) Joseph Addison viii. a) Wyatt and Surrey ix. c) Curial sonnet x. John Milton

Q 2. i) a. Lines are from William Wordsworth's poem "Tintern Abbey" in which the poet mentions the positive and wholesome effect of nature on the life of man.

b. The lines are from John Donne's poem "A Hymn to God, the Father" in which the poet confesses his sinfulness and fears that he may perish as a sinner; yet, he appeals to god to be his saviour, the assurance of which would remove all fears of his.

c. The given lines are from John Milton's sonnet "On His Having Arrived at the Age of Twenty Three". The poet regrets that his looks might deceive people into thinking that he lacks the poetic maturity and talents and that he does not get that appreciation which some other persons enjoy.

d. These lines are from Shakespeare's sonnet number 30, "When to the Sessions of Sweet Silent Thought". The poet takes a nostalgic look at his past and past relationships and says how the past attachments and bereavements give pains unmitigated by time but, on the other hand, the healing, redeeming power of his special relationship ends all such pains and sorrows.

ii. Shakespeare dwells in memory, past and nostalgia which evoke in him feelings of attachment with someone he loves dearly. While the passage of time brings the loss of good times and bereavement which the poet experiences afresh the redeeming power of love acts as a balm. Shakespearean sonnet with its beautiful imagery is enlivened. Progression of thought, rhyme scheme, and other technical features need to be pointed out.

iii. Donne changed English poetry which had become cloyingly sweet after the Elizabethan times. Discarding conventional modes of expression, he brought experiment and innovation. Hyperboles, far-fetched similies, conceits and paradox became prominent. In spite of this, there was a unification of sensibility. He was the most prominent poet among several who were writing like him—Carew, Crashaw, Vaughan etc. Donne excels in both secular and religious poems Donne exhibiting the qualities peculiar to the Metaphysical Poets.

iv. Milton as a poet shows both depth of thought and command of technique. There is a seriousness in his poetry that allows no triviality of thought or expression to enter his work. An austerity that extends both to personal conduct and to a world view is present in his works. His poetic output ranges from short poems like sonnets to epics like *Paradise Lost*. He brought a control and discipline to the Elizabethan tradition of poetry. While he was a great poet who could write in an elevated style, his severe outlook often mars his work.

v. "Tintern Abbey" shows the zenith of Wordsworth's love for nature. *Lyrical Ballads*, the work that started Romanticism in English literature in a big way was the collection in which this poem was published. A revisit to Tintern Abbey brings out Wordsworth's nostalgic ruminations about the effect nature has on him and he analyzes the stages of his love for nature. Full of images from nature, this poem shows the intensity of Wordsworth's love for nature, his pantheism, and his theory as to how great a contribution such a love can make to man.

vi. Shelley is known for his shorter poems—odes, personal lyrics, impersonal lyrics, songs--where his emotional intensity and the free spirit of Romanticism are best expressed. Shelley excels in lyrics which have a musical quality. His idealism, humanitarian concern, and other thoughts are best captured in his

lyrics. The technical excellence of them produces a blend of thought and technique leading to a musical quality.

vii. Wordsworth heralded Romanticism; Keats led it to newer heights. Wordsworth's poetry shows a concern for man, love for nature and simplicity of diction among other things. Keats is more sensual, dwelling in the past and can be an escapist unlike Wordsworth who is more realistic and can connect with common human beings. Wordsworth encompasses the watchwords of the French Revolution –equality, liberty and fraternity- in his poetry better; Keats expresses Hellenism and more of an artistic objectivity. Both the poets took English poetry to greater heights and were great in different ways.