



Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women

Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956, Category A by MHRD (now MoE)

Re-accredited with A++ Grade by NAAC. CGPA 3.65/4, Category I by UGC

Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India

Bachelor's Degree Examination – November 2025

V Semester

Class: III UG
Major: English

Time: 3 Hours
Max. Marks: 100

23BENC10 British Literature: The Early 20th Century

Course Outcomes:

- Trace the history of modernism in the socio-cultural and intellectual contexts of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century Europe
- Link and distinguish between modernity and modernism
- Explain the history of early twentieth-century modernism in the light of stream of consciousness, Jungian and Freudian ideas, Psychoanalysis, Imagism, Cubism, Vorticism
- Identify and analyze the use and modernist technique in different genres in early twentieth century British literature
- Trace the history of the self and subjectivity in literature in the light of colonial consciousness

Part A

10 x 1 = 10

Choose the Correct Answer

1. In "The Second Coming," Yeats writes, "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold." This line reflects _____ CO1 K1
 - a. Economic prosperity
 - b. Post-war spiritual and social chaos
 - c. Romantic idealism
 - d. Industrial progress
2. The speaker in T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" is paralyzed by _____ CO4 K2
 - a. War trauma
 - b. Fear of judgment and social inadequacy
 - c. Religious guilt
 - d. Romantic rejection
3. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* is set primarily in _____ CO5 K1
 - a. India
 - b. The Congo River
 - c. Ireland
 - d. London
4. The protagonist of D.H. Lawrence's *The Virgin and the Gypsy* is _____ CO4 K1
 - a. Yvette
 - b. Lady Chatterley
 - c. Ursula
 - d. Gudrun
5. Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* takes place over _____ CO4 K1
 - a. One year
 - b. One month
 - c. One week
 - d. One day
6. "Leda and the Swan" by Yeats uses Greek myth to symbolize _____ CO3 K2
 - a. Romantic love
 - b. Violent historical change and divine intervention
 - c. Domestic harmony
 - d. Industrial revolution
7. What is the main technique used in *Mrs. Dalloway*? CO4 K2
 - a. Rhyming couplets
 - b. Stream of consciousness
 - c. Epistolary form
 - d. Third-person omniscient narration
8. In "The Hollow Men," Eliot ends with "This is the way the world ends / Not with a bang but a whimper." This suggests _____ CO2 K3
 - a. Heroic resistance
 - b. Spiritual emptiness and anticlimactic collapse
 - c. Political revolution
 - d. Romantic fulfilment
9. The gypsy in Lawrence's novella represents _____ CO3 K3
 - a. Social conformity
 - b. Primal freedom and instinctual truth
 - c. Religious orthodoxy
 - d. Colonial authority
10. Marlow's journey in *Heart of Darkness* is often interpreted as _____ CO5 K3
 - a. A tourist adventure
 - b. A psychological and moral descent into the "heart" of European imperialism
 - c. A romantic quest
 - d. A religious pilgrimage

Part B

5 x 6 = 30

Answer ALL questions

Each answer should not to exceed 400 words or two pages

- 11.a. Analyze how Yeats uses apocalyptic imagery in “The Second Coming”.
(or)
- 11.b. Compare the themes of aging and art in Yeats’s “Sailing to Byzantium” and “The Second Coming.”
- 12.a. Explain how “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” exemplifies modernist fragmentation and alienation.
(or)
- 12.b. How does Eliot use allusions in “The Hollow Men” to convey spiritual desolation?
- 13.a. Discuss Marlow’s role as an unreliable narrator in *Heart of Darkness*. How does this affect the reader’s understanding of colonialism?
(or)
- 13.b. Analyze the symbolism of “darkness” in Conrad’s novella - both literal and metaphorical.
- 14.a. Trace Yvette’s psychological and emotional transformation in *The Virgin and the Gypsy*.
(or)
- 14.b. How does Lawrence contrast institutional religion with natural spirituality in the novella?
- 15.a. Examine how Woolf uses the motif of time and clocks in *Mrs. Dalloway* to explore mental states.
(or)
- 15.b. Compare and contrast the inner lives of Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Warren Smith.

Part C

5 x 12 = 60

Answer ALL questions

Each answer should not to exceed 800 words or four pages

- 16.a. “Yeats’s poetry bridges Romanticism and Modernism.” Discuss with reference to “Leda and the Swan” and “Sailing to Byzantium.”
(or)
- 16.b. How does Yeats use myth and symbolism to engage with historical and personal trauma in his early 20th-century poems?
- 17.a. “Eliot’s poetry reflects the fragmentation of modern consciousness.” Critically analyze this statement using “The love song of J. Alfred Prufrock” and “The Hollow Men.”
(or)
- 17.b. Evaluate T.S. Eliot’s contribution to modernist poetics — consider form, allusion, tone, and theme.
- 18.a. *Heart of Darkness* is less about Africa and more about Europe’s moral collapse. Elaborate with textual evidence.
(or)
- 18.b. Analyze Conrad’s narrative structure and use of frame story in *Heart of Darkness*. How does it enhance the novella’s thematic depth?
- 19.a. “Lawrence’s *The Virgin and the Gypsy* is a critique of repressive social and religious structures.” Discuss.
(or)
- 19.b. How does Lawrence portray the conflict between instinct and intellect through Yvette’s character?
- 20.a. “Virginia Woolf redefines the novel through interiority.” Discuss with reference to narrative technique and characterization in *Mrs. Dalloway*.
(or)
- 20.b. Analyze how Woolf links personal trauma (Septimus) with public performance (Clarissa) to critique post-war British society.
