



'समानो मन्त्रः समितिः समानी'

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL

B.A. Honours 2nd Semester Examination, 2023

CC4-ENGLISH

BRITISH LITERATURE: OLD ENGLISH PERIOD TO 14TH CENTURY

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any **one** from the following questions: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Assess the contribution of Caedmon and Cynewulf to the development of Old English Christian poetry.
 - (b) How far would you agree with the observation that the literary prose in Old English is mostly made up of translations and paraphrases of Latin writings? Argue your answer.
 - (c) Is it justified to say that the Morality and the Miracle plays as well as the Interludes heralded the drama proper in England? Argue your answer.

2. Answer any **three** from the following questions: 10×3 = 30
 - (a) Examine Beowulf as an epic hero.
 - (b) How are Christian and Pagan elements intermingled in *Beowulf*? Answer with appropriate illustrations.
 - (c) Examine *Piers the Plowman* as an allegory.
 - (d) Analyse the structure of *Piers the Plowman*.
 - (e) How does the "Prologue" to *The Wife of Bath's Tale* offer social criticism?
 - (f) Critically consider Chaucer's use of irony in the "Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*.

3. Answer any **three** from the following questions: 5×3 = 15
 - (a) Describe, in brief, the fight between Beowulf and Grendel.
 - (b) Briefly comment on the character of Wealhtheow in *Beowulf*.
 - (c) What was Will's first vision in his dream?
 - (d) Comment on the ending of *Piers the Plowman*.
 - (e) How did Chaucer portray the Knight in the "Prologue" to *The Canterbury Tales*?
 - (f) Summarize Alison's relationship with her fifth husband.

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