

**B. A. Honours English under LOCF**  
**Paper 12: British Literature: Early XX<sup>th</sup> Century**

**QUESTION BANK**

*Heart Of Darkness*

1. Justify the title of the novella, *Heart of Darkness*.
2. How do the dimensions of Marlow's actual journey alter from the original conception?
3. Can Marlow be regarded as Conrad's mouthpiece? Give a reasoned answer.
4. Conrad focuses not only on the injustice of the colonial enterprise but also its farcical aspects. Justify.
6. What is common to the portrayal of the women and the natives?
7. What, according to you, are the possible reasons for Marlow's lie to the Intended?
8. Do you agree with Achebe's view that Conrad is a 'bloody racist'?"

*Mrs Dalloway*

1. How is loneliness and death conveyed in the novel?
2. *Mrs Dalloway* is a novel of war, trauma and mental sickness. Discuss.
3. How well is the concept of memory woven inside the texture of the novel. Discuss.
4. Discuss the narrative technique of the novel.
5. Write the character sketches of all the characters in the novel.
6. Comment on the ending of the novel.
7. Discuss Mrs Dalloway character as portrayed in *Mrs Dalloway*.
8. Critically evaluate the party in the novel Mrs. Dalloway.
9. What role does Peter Walsh play in the novel.
10. Mrs. Dalloway is a satirical comment on modern civilization. Comment.
11. Write short notes on:
  - a. Bradshaw
  - b. Peter Walsh
  - c. Richard Dalloway
  - d. Septimus
  - e. Lucrecia
  - f. Doris Kilman
  - g. Sally Seaton
  - h. Elizabeth

*W.B Yeats*

1. Discuss how Yeats presents the role of the artist in "Sailing to Byzantium".
2. Discuss Yeats' presentation of mortality and immortality in "Sailing to Byzantium".
3. Discuss how Yeats presents violence in "The Second Coming".
4. Discuss how Yeats considers history in "The Second Coming".
5. Discuss Yeats' presentation of the supernatural in "The Second Coming".
6. 'Yeats uses evocative language to create poetry that includes both personal reflection and public commentary.' Discuss this statement, supporting your answer with reference to both the themes and language found in the poetry of W.B. Yeats on your course.

7. Yeats's poetry is driven by a tension between the real world in which he lives and an ideal world that he imagines.' Write a response to the poetry of W.B. Yeats in the light of this statement, supporting your points with suitable reference to the poems on your course.

*T.S. Eliot*

1. Comment on the epigraph of the poem "Love song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
2. In the opening line of the poem The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock the speaker states, 'Let us go then, you and I.' Who is the you here?
3. The speaker (Prufrock) compares the sunset to a 'patient etherised upon a table' Why? do you suppose Prufrock would compare a sunset to some hospital patient who has been anesthetized and is waiting for an operation?
11. Is there any possibility for salvation for the Hollow Men? Are they capable of saving themselves? Does the poem contain any signs of hope?
12. Eliot once described the newspaper editors and politicians of his time in a way that made them sound like "Hollow Men." Does contemporary society have its Hollow Men? Would you associate them with a particular social group?
13. Do you find it offensive or arrogant of Eliot to judge other people so harshly? Does the fact that he does so with an imaginary group in a poem make a difference? Where are the Hollow Men's eyes?
14. Do you think the Hollow Men will make it across the River Styx, or are they trapped forever in the desert?

#### Background Reading

1. Discuss the structure of Ego and Superego as given by Freud.
2. Relate the Myth of Sisyphus with any text in your course.
3. Discuss Stream of Consciousness in relation to any text in your course.
4. What does Raymond Williams have to say about modernism in 'Metropolitan Perceptions and the Emergence of Modernism'.