

Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya
Department of English
BA Part-I
Question Bank
Paper-I Poetry and Drama

Short Answer Questions: -

1. ' Shall I compare thee to a summer's day' - - does the speaker think the comparison proper or worthy?
2. What does the expression 'eternal lines' refer to?
3. Whose summer is described as eternal in Shakespeare's Sonnet 'Shall I Compare Thee'?
4. What are the shortcomings of the summer in comparison to the poet's friend?
5. How will the living record of the memory remain according to the poet in 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments'?
6. How will the poet's friend and patron find a permanent place in the hearts of coming generations and lovers?
7. In the poem, "Not Marble.....", what difference does the poet bring out between his rhyme and the monuments?
8. How will the 'living record' of the poet's beloved and his memory be more powerful than wasteful wars?
9. What do "sessions" and "summons" imply in Sonnet 'Remembrance'?
10. What takes all the sadness away in Shakespeare's Sonnet?
11. How does the thought of his dear friend change the speaker's attitude?
12. Explain the meaning of "why swell'st thou then?" as it appears in "Death, be not proud" by John Donne.
13. 'In Death, Be Not Proud' by John Donne, why does the poet feel that Death is arrogant?

14. Who is the poet addressing in the poem "Death Be Not Proud" by John Donne?
15. Why does John Donne call death a slave in "Death, be not proud"?
16. What is the relationship between God and man in "The Pulley" by George Herbert?
17. What is the jewel of God's blessings in the poem 'Pulley'? Why does God decide not to bestow it on man?
18. What does the expression mean 'So both should losers be' in the poem "The Pulley"?
19. In "To His Coy Mistress," what does the speaker mean by describing his mistress as "coy"?
20. Who is the speaker in "To His Coy Mistress"? How is he characterized?
21. In the poem, "To his Coy Mistress," is the poet angry at and disgusted by his mistress?
22. What type of sonnet is "On His blindness"?
23. What does Milton mean by "era half of my days"?
24. 'They also serve who only stand and wait.' What does Milton mean by 'stand and wait'?
25. How does Milton hope to serve God in "On His Blindness"?
26. Why does Milton refer to the Biblical parable of the talents in his poem "When I consider how my light is spent?"
27. Why does the poet call time, the subtle thief of youth?
28. Explain the line, "That some more timely happy spirits endueth".
29. What made Dryden to write the poem 'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day'?
30. What does the word 'tune and untune' refers?
31. How, according to Dryden, will the end of universe take place?
32. What do the expression 'mind is without free' and 'head is held high' mean?
33. Whom does the poet address as 'thee' and 'my father'?
34. According to the poet, what must be done for achieving 'ever - widening thought and action'?

35. Who approached to Flora for a flower and why in the poem 'The Lotus'?
36. Where do the flowers meet for the challenge? Who are the main characters of the challenge?
37. What do the Rose and Lily symbolize?
38. How does the creeper appear on the tree in the poem 'Our Casuarina Tree'?
39. The casuarina tree will be remembered for ever. Why?
40. Name the three events referred to in the poem 'Indian Weavers'?
What are the three stages of human life indicated by these events?
41. What is the similarity between the break of the day and the birth of a baby?
42. Where did Radha carry her curds to in the poem 'The song of Radha'?
43. Why were her comrades angry?
44. How did the rightful Duke of France spend time in the Forest of Arden in 'As You Like It'?
45. What happened when Celia and Rosalind attempted to persuade the young man against wrestling?
46. Why did Frederick banish Rosalind?
47. How did Adam help Orlando? Why did he do so?
48. How did Ganymede's plan to 'cure' Orlando turn out?
49. What happened when Oliver went to the cottage to inform about Orlando's injury?
50. When and how did Ganymede make Rosalind appear?

Long Answer Questions: -

1. What are the characteristics of a Shakespearean sonnet?
2. How does William Shakespeare immortalize his friend's beauty in Sonnet 18?
3. Discuss the theme in sonnets by Shakespeare.
4. What are the figures of speech in "Death, be not proud"?
5. Explain how the 'Carpe Diem' theme is expressed in Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress."
6. How is "To His Coy Mistress" a three-part argument?
7. What is the attitude of the speaker in Milton's poem "On His Blindness"?
8. Discuss the theme of John Milton's sonnet "How soon Hath Time."
9. What musical instruments are used in the poem 'A Song for St. Cecilia's Day'? What actually is the harmony? What effect can each instrument bring when played?
10. Critically analyse the poem 'It is needless to ask the Saint' by Kabir.
11. Bring out the significance of the title of the poem 'Where the Mind is without Fear'.
12. After reading the poem, what do you think about the state of the country at this moment in poet's eyes?
13. Does the lotus prove the superiority of Indian culture. If so how?
14. How does Toru Dutt make use of classical myths of the west and that of India?
15. What message is conveyed in the poem 'Indian Weavers'?
16. What is the poetess trying to explain about-Radha in the poem 'The Song of Radha'?
17. Describe the reminiscences of the poet, when she sees the casuarina tree.
18. Elucidate on the theme and provide a critical overview of the poem, Our Casuarina Tree by Toru Dutt.

19. What are the chief characteristics of metaphysical poetry?
Discuss with reference to two prescribed poems.
20. Define metaphysical poetry and describe its characteristics.
21. What is the role of the Forest of Arden in Shakespeare's *As You Like It*?
22. How is *As You Like It* a pastoral play?
23. Draw a character sketch of Orlando in *As You Like It*.
24. Explain how Donne's use of paradox helps convey the message/theme of the poem of "Death, be not proud."
25. How is "The Pulley" by George Herbert a metaphysical poem?