



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. Major 6th Semester Examination, 2026

ENGDSC612T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

LITERARY THEORY

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

Answer any *ten* of the following questions within 250 words each, attempting $5 \times 10 = 50$ at least *two* questions from each of the *three* sections

SECTION-I

1. Which theorist identified and structurally arranged 'Feminist', 'Feminism' and 'Female' as prominent tendencies in Feminist writing? Write a short note on each and highlight the differences among them.
2. Briefly explain the concept of Gynocriticism.
3. Briefly discuss Julia Kristeva's contribution to feminist theory and criticism.
4. What do you understand by 'Ecriture Feminine'?
5. Write a note on the first wave of women's writings.

SECTION-II

6. Discuss the concepts of 'langue' and 'parole'.
7. Signifier and Signified—how are these two terms core to structuralist theory?
8. Write a brief note on Saussure's concept of 'signs'.
9. Briefly discuss Poststructuralism.
10. Cite two differences between Structuralism and Poststructuralism.

SECTION-III

11. Write a brief note on Ecofeminism.
12. Briefly explain the term Environmentalism.
13. Define Deep Ecology and point out its difference from Shallow Ecology.
14. Write a brief note on Eco-Marxism and Social Ecology.
15. How is literature connected to ecology? Discuss.

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 5th Semester Examination, 2025-26

ENGDC508T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

19TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

Students cannot attempt long question and RTC from the same section

1. Answer any **two** of the following questions within 500 words each: 15×2 = 30
- (a) Analyse how Tennyson's 'Ulysses' captures the spirit of the Victorian age and the beliefs of the Victorian era.

OR

- (b) Critically evaluate Browning's 'My Last Duchess' as a dramatic monologue.
- (c) Analyse how Arnold expresses the conflict between faith and doubt in his poem 'Dover Beach'.

OR

- (d) The allegory of Christina Rossetti's 'The Goblin Market' is an assertion of the female agency. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
2. Explain with reference to the context any **one** of the following within 250 words: 5×1 = 5

- (a) Yet all experience is an arch where thro'
Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades
Forever and forever when I move.
- (b) Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.
- (c) And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

Obsessed

3. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Analyse Dickens' *Great Expectations* as a critique of Victorian society.

OR

- (b) How does Pip's experience expose him to the darker side of Victorian society? Discuss.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. Major 5th Semester Examination, 2025-26

ENG DSC509T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

20TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

Long question and RTC cannot be attempted from the same text

**GROUP-A
(POETRY)**

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Consider Yeats's 'Sailing to Byzantium' as a poem of escape.
- (b) Comment on the significance of the title of 'The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock'.
2. Explain with reference to the context any **one** of the following in about 250 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) An aged man is but a paltry thing,
A tattered coat upon a stick, ...
- (b) No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be;
Am an attendant Lord, one that will do
To swell a progress ...
3. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Wilfred Owen's poem 'Spring Offensive' as a poignant study of "the pity of war".
- (b) How is W. H. Auden's poem, "Musée des Beaux Arts", a critical commentary on human suffering? Discuss.

**GROUP-B
(NOVEL)**

4. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Critically examine the narrative technique in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
- (b) 'Mistah Kurtz — he Dead', — Discuss the impact of Kurtz's death on Marlow in the light of this statement.

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 5th Semester Examination, 2025-26

ENGDS510T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

Essay type questions and RTC cannot be attempted from the same text

SECTION-I

1. Attempt any **one** of the following questions within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Examine the concept of the 'passage' as both literal and metaphorical in Walt Whitman's 'Passage to India'.
- (b) 'Crow Testament' by Sherman Alexie presents a picture of the hardships suffered by Native Americans through the metaphorical image of a crow — Discuss.
- (c) How does Anne Bradstreet criticize the male society in her poem 'The Prologue'?
2. Analyse with reference to the context, any **one** of the following passages within 250 words: 1×5 = 5
- (a) I've known rivers:
Ancient, dusky rivers.
My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
- (b) and when the last Indian has pawned everything
but his heart, Buffalo Bill takes that for twenty bucks
- (c) A worship new I sing,
You captains, voyagers, explorers, yours,
You engineers, you architects, machinists, yours,
You, not for trade or transportation only,
But in God's name, and for thy sake, O soul.

SECTION-II

3. Attempt any **one** of the following questions within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss the symbolic significance of the character of Beloved.
- (b) Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a critique of the institution of slavery. Discuss with detailed references to the novel.
4. Answer any **one** from the following questions within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Write a note on the significance of the title 'Dry September'.
- (b) Discuss Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Purloined Letter' as the perfectly balanced detective story.

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 5th Semester Examination, 2025-26

ENGDSC511T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

LITERARY TYPES & ESSAY WRITING

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

1. Answer any **one** question in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Explain the function of 'Catharsis' in a tragedy. Give examples to substantiate your answer.
 - (b) Examine the use of tragic flaw in Shakespearean tragedies with suitable examples.

2. Answer any **one** question in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Is plot essential to the novel? Discuss.
 - (b) Write a critical note on the psychological novel.

3. Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics in about 800 words: 20×1 = 20
 - (a) Art and Morality
 - (b) Literary creativity versus Artificial Intelligence
 - (c) Shakespeare through the lens of Indian film makers
 - (d) Gender inequality in India



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 1st Semester Examination, 2023-24

ENG DSC101T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time Allotted; 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

1. Answer any **two** of the following questions within 400 words each: 10×2 = 20

- (a) Mention the features of Restoration Comedy of Manners with reference to at least one major playwright.

OR

- (b) Give an account of Restoration Verse Satire, referring to at least one of the major poets.

- (c) What are the characteristic features of British Romantic poetry? Discuss with reference to a few poems.

OR

- (d) Write a note on the essayists of the Romantic period with reference to at least one essayist.

- (e) Assess the contribution of the women novelists of the Victorian Age.

OR

- (f) Examine the works of any two representative Victorian poets.

- (g) Give an account of the British poetry of the First World War with reference to any two poets.

OR

- (h) Write a note on the Modern English novel.

2. Write short notes on any **four** of the following within 200 words each: 5×4 = 20

- (a) Neoclassicism
(b) Cavalier Poetry
(c) Primary and Secondary Imagination
(d) Novel of Manners
(e) Naturalistic Drama
(f) Pre-Raphaelite Poetry
(g) The 30's Poets
(h) Absurdism.

3. Answer the following questions:

- (a) Why is the year 1660 important in the history of England?
- (b) Name a picaresque novel and its author.
- (c) Name any two poets belonging to the 'Graveyard School of Poetry'.
- (d) Name the two works published in 1798 and 1800 that are significant to the English Romantic movement.
- (e) Who is the author of 'Dream Children'? Name one of his contemporary essayists.
- (f) Name the Brontë sisters who wrote novels during the Victorian period.
- (g) Which renowned Victorian novelist was born in Calcutta? Name any one of his major novels.
- (h) Who wrote "In Memoriam"? Name any one of his contemporary poets.
- (i) Who wrote the poem "The Waste Land"? Name any other work by the poet.
- (j) Name a Kitchen Sink drama and its playwright.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 2nd Semester Examination, 2024

ENG DSC 202T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERARY TERMS

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

GROUP-A

1. Answer any **two** of the following questions within 400 words each: 10×2 = 20
22
- (a) Discuss with suitable illustrations the nature and extent of Scandinavian influence on the English language.
- (b) Make an assessment of the French influence on English language.
- (c) Show with suitable examples how Shakespeare has impacted the English language.
- (d) Write a brief note on the impact of globalisation on the English language.

2. Write word notes on any **five** of the following: 2×5 = 10
8
- peon; guru; communal; lathi-charge; batchmate; gherao; avatar; eve-teasing; almirah.

GROUP-B

3. Write short notes on any **five** of the following within 200 words each: 4×5 = 20
6
- rhyme; couplet; conceit; hubris; chorus; catharsis; plot; narrator; epistolary technique.

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 3rd Semester Examination, 2024-25

ENG DSC303T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

BRITISH LITERATURE (14TH – EARLY 17TH CENTURY)

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

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Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

Students cannot attempt long question and RTC from the same POET

1. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Critically analyse the form and content of William Shakespeare's 'Sonnet-130'.
 - (b) Critically comment on the title of John Donne's poem 'The Canonization'.
 - (c) Consider Andrew Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress' as a metaphysical poem. 4.
2. Locate and explain any **one** of the following extracts with reference to the text 5×1 = 5
within 200 words.
 - (a) Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come.
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
 - (b) We can die by it, if not live by love,
And if unfit for tombs and hearse
Our legend be, it will be fit for verse.
 - (c) But at my back I always hear
Time's winged chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all before us lie
Deserts of vast eternity.
3. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Discuss Macbeth as a tragic hero with appropriate textual references. 7.
 - (b) Comment on Shakespeare's use of images in 'Macbeth' with close reference to the text.
4. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Consider Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night' as a Romantic Comedy.
 - (b) Write an essay on the character of Viola in Shakespeare's 'Twelfth Night'. 5

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 4th Semester Examination, 2025

ENGDSC404T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

BRITISH POETRY AND DRAMA (17TH – 18TH C)

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

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Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

1. Answer any **one** in about 500 words: 15
(a) Critically comment on the first 26 lines of *Paradise Lost* Book I.
(b) Can Satan be called the hero in *Paradise Lost*, Book I? Justify. $5\frac{1}{2}$
2. Answer any **one** in about 500 words: 15
(a) Discuss *The Rape of the Lock* as a mock-epic with suitable references from the first three cantos.
(b) Critically comment on Pope's depiction of Belinda in *The Rape of the Lock*. ~~10~~ 5
3. Explain with reference to the context any **one** of the following: (in 200 words) 5
(a) "The mind is its own place, and in itself
Can make a Heav'n of Hell, a Hell of Heav'n." $1\frac{2}{3}$
(b) "In horrible destruction laid thus low,
As far as Gods and Heav'nly Essences
Can Perish."
(c) "What dire offence from am'rous causes springs,
What mighty contests rise from trivial things,"
(d) "Of, when the world imagine women stray,
The Sylphs through mystic mazes guide their way,"
4. Answer any **one** of the following in about 500 words: 15
(a) Discuss the significance of the title of Congreve's *The Way of the World* with suitable references to the text.
(b) Comment on the relevance of the 'Proviso Scene' in *The Way of the World*.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 4th Semester Examination, 2025

ENG DSC405T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

18TH C BRITISH LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

Note: Long questions and RTC cannot be attempted from the same poet

SECTION-I

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions: (500 words) 15×1 = 15
- (a) Consider 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' as a poem on the theme of death.
- (b) Comment on Cowper's depiction of solitude in 'The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk'.
- (c) 'The Lamb' and 'The Tyger' reflect two contrary states of the human soul. Discuss.
2. Locate and annotate any **two** of the following passages in about 200 words: 5×2 = 10
- (a) He is called by thy name
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek and he is mild,
He became a little child
- (b) I am out of humanity's reach;
I must finish my journey alone;
- (c) The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Awaits alike th' inevitable hour.

SECTION-II

3. Answer any **one** of the following questions: (500 words) 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* as a bitter satire with suitable references (Book I and Book II).
- (b) "Swift's irony is the instrument of his moral indignation". Assess Books I and II of *Gulliver's Travels* in the light of this comment.

SECTION-III

4. Answer any **two** of the following questions: (200 words each) 5×2 = 10
- (a) Discuss the types of people who frequent the Coffee houses with reference to Steele's essay 'A Coffee House and its Frequenters'.
- (b) Why does Goldsmith say that an election hall seems to be a theatre?
- (c) Briefly discuss Addison's portrayal of Sir Roger's character in his essay 'Sir Roger at Home'.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 4th Semester Examination, 2025

ENG DSC406T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

BRITISH ROMANTIC LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

Note: Long questions and RTC cannot be attempted from the same text

1. Answer any **two** of the following questions in about 500 words each: 15×2 = 30

- (a) Elaborate upon Wordsworth's depiction of the changing phases of man's relationship with nature as narrated in 'Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey'.

OR

- (b) Discuss in brief Coleridge's use of images in 'Kubla Khan' to serve his poetic purpose. Substantiate with apt textual references.
- (c) How does the west wind epitomise the contrary forces of nature like creation and destruction? Discuss in the context of Shelley's 'Ode to the West Wind'.

OR

- (d) Discuss how Keats explores the conflict between transience and permanence in 'Ode on a Grecian Urn'.

2. Explain with reference to the context any **one** of the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5

- (a) These beauteous forms,
Through a long absence, have not been to me
As is a landscape to a blind man's eye.
- (b) And 'mid this tumult Kubla heard from far
Ancestral voices prophesying war!
- (c) "Beauty is truth, truth beauty, —that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."
- (d) Make me thy lyre, even as the forest is:
What if my leaves are falling Like its own!

negative

3. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15

- (a) Comment on the aptness of the title of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.
- (b) Evaluate the character of Darcy in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* as a romantic hero, substantiate your argument.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 4th Semester Examination, 2025

ENG DSC407T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

INDIAN WRITING IN ENGLISH

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

Candidates cannot attempt long questions and RTC questions from the same text

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Critically comment on the title of Kamala Das's poem 'An Introduction'.
 - (b) Comment on the motif of hunger used in Jayanta Mahapatra's poem 'Hunger'.
 - (c) Discuss the theme of Meena Kandasamy's 'Aggression' with suitable references from the text.
2. Answer with reference to the context any **two** of the following: 5×2 = 10
 - (a) "Was I sleeping while he snipped
my thick black fur
and filled me with garbage and stones?"
 - (b) Deliverance? Where is this deliverance to be found? Our master himself has joyfully
taken upon him the bonds of creation; he is bound with us all for ever.
 - (c) ___ Dress in sarees, be girl
Be wife, they said. Be embroiderer, be cook,
Be a quarreller with servants. Fit in. Oh,
Belong, cried the categorizers.
3. Answer any **one** of the following questions: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) How does R. K. Narayan portray contemporary society in *The Guide*? Elucidate your answer with reference to the text.

OR

- (b) Comment on the significance of the title of R. K. Narayan's *The Guide*.
- 4. Answer any **one** of the following questions: 10×1 = 10
 - (a) Write an account of the role of the radio in the story 'The Free Radio'.

OR

- (b) How does the title of Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's short story 'The Adivasi Will Not Dance' embody the themes of resistance and agency narrated in the story?



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 6th Semester Examination, 2026

ENG DSC613T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

EUROPEAN DRAMA & THEATRE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

SECTION-I

1. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15

✓(a) Comment on the significance of the title 'A Doll's House'.

OR

(b) Discuss the character of Nora in Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'.

SECTION-II

2. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15

(a) Assess the character of Lopakhin in Chekhov's play — 'The Cherry Orchard'.

OR

(b) Show how 'The Cherry Orchard' dramatizes the clash between the declining aristocracy and the rising middle class in early 20th Century Russia.

SECTION-III

3. Answer any **one** question from the following within 500 words: 15×1 = 15

(a) Assess the character of Shen Teh as the 'good woman' in the play 'The Good Woman of Setzuan'.

OR

✓(b) Analyze Brecht's 'The Good Woman of Setzuan' as an example of 'epic theatre'.

SECTION-IV

4. Answer any **one** question from the following within 250 words: 5×1 = 5

(a) What does the tarantella dance symbolize in 'A Doll's House'?

(b) Critically comment on the ending of the play 'The Cherry Orchard'.

✓(c) Comment on the Gods in Brecht's 'The Good Woman of Setzuan'.



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Major 6th Semester Examination, 2026

ENG DSC614T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

INDIAN CLASSICAL LITERATURE

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

All symbols are of usual significance.

1. Answer any **one** in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss the significance of the Assembly hall episode in the action of the *Mahabharata*.
- (b) Comment on the concept of Dharma as is found in the Book of Assembly Hall.
2. Answer any **one** in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Critically examine the character of Charudatta as a 'nayaka' in the play *Mrichchakatikam*.
- (b) Analyze the title of *Mrichchakatikam*.
3. Answer any **one** of the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss the theme of duty and love in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*.
- (b) Examine *Abhijnanasakuntalam* in the light of the Rasa theory.
4. Answer any **one** in not more than 250 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the role of Krishna in the episode of dicing.
- (b) What role does Maitreya play in *Mrichchakatikam*?
- (c) Examine the role of Madhavya in *Abhijnanasakuntalam*.

ascetic

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WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A. Major 6th Semester Examination, 2026

ENG DSC615T-ENGLISH (MAJOR)

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

SECTION-I

1. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
(a) Discuss Alice's journey through the world of looking glass as a process of self-discovery and growth.

OR

- (b) How does Lewis Carroll build a fantastic and nonsensical world in *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*? Illustrate your answer with suitable references from the text.

SECTION-II

2. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
(a) How does the narrative technique used in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* contribute to the suspense and surprise ending of the novel?

OR

- (b) Can *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* be seen as a classic example of detective fiction? Substantiate your answer with reasons.

SECTION-III

3. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
(a) Comment on the significance of the title of J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

OR

- (b) Discuss the themes in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

SECTION-IV

4. Answer any **one** of the following questions within about 250 words: 5×1 = 5
(a) Write a short note on the poem "Jabberwocky" in *Through the Looking Glass*.
(b) Comment briefly on the character of Ursula Bourne in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.
(c) How does the death of his parents influence Harry's character and the decisions that he makes over the course of the book?

—x—