

International Islamic University Chittagong
Dept. of English Language & Literature
B.A. (Honors) in ELL

Mid Term Examination

Autumn Semester 2023

Course Code: ELL - 4838

Course Title: Literary Criticism and Theory

Time 1.5 hrs.

Marks: 30

Answer **question no. 1** and **two others** from the rest.

1. Locate and comment on **any two** of the following. **5 x 2 = 10**
 - a. A play ought to be *a just and lively image of human nature, ...*
 - b. Shakespeare's plays are not in the rigorous and critical sense either tragedies or comedies, but compositions of a distinct kind;
 - c. In the writings of other poets, a character is too often an individual; in those of Shakespeare it is commonly a species.
 - d. ... Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquilly.

2. Write a note comparing and contrasting the relative strengths and weaknesses of the ancient playwrights as depicted in Dryden's 'An Essay of Dramatic Poesy'. **10**

3. Examine Johnson's view on Shakespeare's 'peculiarities of excellence' and 'faults' as you find in his 'Preface to Shakespeare'. **10**

4. Why does Wordsworth select humble and rustic life for romantic poetry? Justify with reference to the 'Preface to Lyrical Ballads'. **10**

5. Why does Coleridge object to the view of Wordsworth regarding the theme and language of poetry? Do you find these objections justified? **10**