

**RANI RASHMONI GREEN UNIVERSITY**

**SEMESTER II EXAMINATION 2025**

**CC 6**

**Early Twentieth Century Literature**

Full Marks: 40

Time: 2 Hours

1. Answer **any two** of the following questions:

10x2= 20

- a) How does Yeats's life-long quest for spiritual enlightenment influence his work?  
Answer with reference to at least two of his poems from your syllabus.
- b) Examine the significance of the title of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
- c) How effectively does Joyce use "the stream of consciousness" technique in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
- d) Write a brief essay on *The Waste Land* as a Modernist work.
- e) Comment on the significance of title of the poem, *The Wasteland*.

2. Answer **any four** of the following:

5x4=20

- a) Write a short note on Kurtz in *Heart of Darkness*.
- b) What does the "sages standing in God's holy fire" image suggest about the role of artists and philosophers in the poem, *Sailing to Byzantium* by Yeats.
- c) What role do epiphanies play in the *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*?
- d) In what ways is Stephen's later vocation (or 'calling') as an artist like and unlike that of a priest?
- e) "The brown current ran swiftly out of the heart of darkness, bearing us down towards the sea with twice the speed of our upward progress; and Kurtz's life was running swiftly, too, ebbing, ebbing out of his heart into the sea of inexorable time. . . . I saw the time approaching when I would be left alone of the party of 'unsound method.'" Explain.
- f) Answer with reference to the context:
  - i. An aged man is but a paltry thing,  
A tattered coat upon a stick, . . .

OR

ii. The rider, the birds that range  
From cloud to tumbling cloud,

g) Answer with reference to the context:

A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,

h) Answer with reference to the context:

The river bears no empty bottles, sandwich papers,  
Silk handkerchiefs, cardboard boxes, cigarette ends  
Or other testimony of summer nights.