

Civil Services (Main)
Examination, 2026

KVMS-D-ENG

ENGLISH
Paper II
(LITERATURE)

Time Allowed : **Three Hours**

Maximum Marks : **250**

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

*There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **TWO SECTIONS**.*

*Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all.*

*Questions no. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, any **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question from each Section.*

The number of marks carried by a question / part is indicated against it.

*Answers must be written in **ENGLISH**.*

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet must be clearly struck off.

SECTION A

Q1. Critically comment in about 150 words on each of the following : $10 \times 5 = 50$

- (a) Fish, flesh, or fowl commend all summer long
Whatever is begotten, born, and dies.
Caught in that sensual music all neglect
Monuments of unageing intellect.
(W.B. Yeats) 10
- (b) Do I dare
Disturb the universe?
In a minute there is time
For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.
(T.S. Eliot) 10
- (c) Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.
(W.H. Auden) 10
- (d) In the hollows of afternoons
Young mothers assemble
At swing and sandpit
Setting free their children.
(Philip Larkin) 10
- (e) a house that leaned
slowly through our growing
years on a bent coconut
tree in the yard.
Being the burning type,
he burned properly
at the cremation
(A.K. Ramanujan) 10

Q2. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) How does the myth of Leda's rape in Yeats's "Leda and the Swan" symbolize the social milieu of early twentieth-century Europe ? 15
- (b) How does T.S. Eliot's "Journey of the Magi" explore the themes of alienation, regret and powerlessness ? 15
- (c) Analyse how A.K. Ramanujan's poems depict the negotiation between heritage and modernity in the formation of postcolonial identity. 20

Q3. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) Assess how far W.H. Auden's assertion that "Poetry makes nothing happen" is true. 15
- (b) Discuss Philip Larkin's statement that "deprivation is for me what daffodils were for William Wordsworth", with reference to his poetic vision. 15
- (c) What structural and formal innovations characterised modernist poetry ? Illustrate with reference to the prescribed poems. 20

Q4. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) To what extent does the revolutionary impact of *Look Back in Anger* lie, not only in its themes, but also in its language and dramatic expression ? 15
- (b) Discuss how *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett represents a convergence between avant-garde and popular culture. 15
- (c) Discuss the use of existential themes, circular dialogues, and illogical situations in absurd drama. 20

SECTION B

Q5. Answer all of the following questions in about 150 words each : $10 \times 5 = 50$

- (a) Analyse the ways in which Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* addresses the ideological and moral consequences of colonialism and racism. 10
- (b) Elaborate how guilt, sin and confession contribute to Stephen's moral and psychological development in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. 10
- (c) Examine the characters in *Sons and Lovers* from a psychoanalytical perspective. 10
- (d) Analyse how E.M. Forster employs the tripartite structure in *A Passage to India* to explore the limits of cross-cultural understanding. 10
- (e) Examine *Mrs. Dalloway* as a novel that explores its deepest concerns through the themes of medicine, empire, and love. 10

Q6. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) Analyse the role of oral narrative style and mythic framework in shaping the structure of *Kanthapura*. 15
- (b) Explore V.S. Naipaul's use of comic situations and satiric characterisation in *A House for Mr. Biswas*. 15
- (c) Examine the features and significance of the stream of consciousness technique in modernist literature with reference to *Mrs. Dalloway*. 20

Q7. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) Discuss how Joseph Conrad explores the complex issues of honour, guilt and heroism in his novel *Lord Jim*. 15
- (b) Analyse the significance of the ending of *A Passage to India* in terms of colonial separation and the politics of desire. 15
- (c) Examine how *Kanthapura* portrays poverty, illiteracy, and superstition. 20

Q8. Answer all of the following questions :

- (a) Examine how V.S. Naipaul uses the physical and social landscape in *A House for Mr. Biswas* to mirror the struggles, aspirations, and isolation of Mr. Biswas. 15
- (b) Discuss the representation of colliery life in D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*. 15
- (c) Discuss the interplay between Stephen's personal experiences and his emerging ideas about the role of the artist in society. 20