UG ENG S4 05 (DSC 5)

FOUR YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE

(CBCS in Accordance with NEP 2020)

SEMESTER- IV

ENGLISH POETRY FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

Padmanath Gohainbaruah School of Humanities

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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ENGLISH POETRY: FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

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REFERENCES

COURSE INTRODUCTION

The Poetry paper titled 'English Poetry from Medieval to Modern' introduces the learner to fifteen representative English poems which encompasses the variety in form and practice of the genre in English literature down the historical ages.

Unit 1: The unit introduces the learner to the first poet of English literature, Geoffrey Chaucer and his Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales* which contains the narrator's brief description of the springtime pilgrimage to Canterbury.

Unit 2: The unit introduces the learner to the 'Bard of Avon' William Shakespeare and his poetic compositions "Sonnet 56" and "Sonnet 144" through which the poet's initial pessimism ends with the sudden realisation of the one source that could make his love immortal.

Unit 3: The unit is on Metaphysical Poetry and discusses various important aspects of the form.

Unit 4: The unit contains two poems by the metaphysical poet John Donne namely "The Good Morrow" and "The Canonisation" which delves on the intensity of love and upholds the argument on how and why love is not only self-contained but invincible as well.

Unit 5: The unit takes up the great epic poet, John Milton's Invocation to *Paradise Lost*, Book I written in the best of English heroic verse rhyme and also much inspired from the earlier classical tradition.

Unit 6: The unit takes up a fragment from Alexander Pope's "The Rape of the Lock" titled "Belinda's Dressing Room" which takes the learner through the evocative and the enchanting world of a young belle known as Belinda.

Unit 7: The unit takes up an extract from John Dryden's "Mac Fleknoe" which is a satirical work on the contemporary poet Thomas Shadwell following a long literary dispute.

Unit 8: The unit takes up the visionary or prophetic poet William Blake's poem "The Tyger" taken from the *Songs of Experience* which evokes the omnipresence of the "immortal hand" of creation, designing all that is complementary and contrasted at once.

Unit 9: The unit discusses S.T. Coleridge's poem "Love" while also highlighting the practice of Romantic Poetry.

Unit 10: The unit delves into the psychological realm of the Duke of Ferrara in Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" which reveals the confessions of the Duke and hints at the mysterious death of the Duchess.

Unit 11: The unit takes up Alfred Tennyson's "Ulysses" and presents various aspects on the adventure and journey of life.

Unit 12: The unit analyses T.S. Eliot's "Preludes" which through its vivid imagery dwells on the existential monotony of the modern world reflecting the dullness, lethargy, boredom and ennui that seeps in through the modern day existence.

Unit 13: The unit takes up W.H. Auden's elegy "In Memory of W.B. Yeats" written a month after Yeats' death in winter 1939 that reflects Auden's grave sense of loss and nostalgia through words, thereby conveying his admiration for Yeats.

Unit 14: The fourteenth poem takes up Philip Larkin's poem "Church going" which highlights the transforming world view of the modern individual and a change in modern perception towards faith and religion.

Unit 15: The fifteenth unit takes up W.B. Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium" which expresses the poet's desire for eternity.

After going through these units, you will be able to analyse the poems with a proper comprehension of its theme, structure and poetic techniques. While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read some relevant ideas and concepts in "Let Us Know" along the text. We have kept "Check Your Progress" questions in each unit. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study.