GEG S4-02 (M)

Exam Code : ENM4B

ENGLISH POETRY FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

SEMESTER IV

B.A. ENGLISH

BLOCK - 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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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.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The second block of the course on English Poetry contains a total of seven units. The ninth unit discusses S.T. Coleridge's poem "Love" while also highlighting the practice of Romantic Poetry. The tenth 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. The eleventh unit takes up Alfred Tennyson's "Ulysses". The twelfth 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. The thirteenth 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. 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. 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.