



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI

PhD Entrance Examination June 2025

ENGLISH

10 June, 2025

Time: 2 hrs.

Total Marks: 50

- A. Attempt a critical evaluation of the poem reproduced below, including an appraisal of the elements of its form and content (such as rhetoric, prosody, tone, mood, voice, themes, and style) (25):

Poet for Our Times

—Carol Ann Duffy

I write the headlines for a Daily Paper.
It's just a knack one's born with all-right-Squire.
You do not have to be an educator,
just bang the words down like they're screaming *Fire!*
CECIL-KEAYS ROW SHOCK TELLS EYETIE WAITER.
ENGLAND FAN CALLS WHINGEING FROG A LIAR.

Cheers. Thing is, you've got to grab attention
with just one phrase as punters rush on by.
I've made mistakes too numerous to mention,
so now we print the buggers inches high.
TOP MP PANTIE ROMP INCREASES TENSION.
RENT BOY: ROCK STAR PAID ME WELL TO LIE.

I like to think that I'm a sort of poet
for our times. My shout. Know what I mean?
I've got a special talent and I show it
in punchy haikus featuring the Queen.
DIPLOMAT IN BED WITH SERBO-CROAT.
EASTENDERS' BONKING SHOCK IS WELL-OBSCENE.

Of course, these days, there's not the sense of panic
you got a few years back. What with the box
et cet. I wish I'd been around when the Titanic
sank. To headline that, mate, would've been the tops.
SEE PAGE 3 TODAY GENTS THEY'RE GIGANTIC.
KINNOCK-BASHER MAGGIE PULLS OUT STOPS.

And, yes, I have a dream – make that a scotch, ta –
that kids will know my headlines off by heart.
IMMIGRANTS FLOOD IN CLAIMS HEATHROW WATCHER.
GREEN PARTY WOMAN IS A NIGHTCLUB TART.

The poems of the decade . . . *Stuff 'em! Gotcha!*
The instant tits and bottom line of art.

B. Attempt any ONE of the following (25):

1. Three responses towards a definition of Digital Humanities, selected from the website whatisdigitalhumanities.com (2015), are given below. Write an essay connecting these three points of view from your own understanding of the discipline, with appropriate illustrations.

The development, study and application of new technology techniques and methods to traditional modes of scholarship. Stephen Woodruff

The Digital Humanities is the imagined community of a diaspora of humanists whom, having been displaced by the great neoliberal and technocratic transformation of education, have sought to reclaim the homeland of academia by joining the revolutionary, if ambivalent, power of digital technology to the ancient labors of cultural interpretation, historical consciousness, and aesthetic education. Rafael Alvarado

How do I define DH? Reluctantly. Bethany Nowviskie

2. Discuss the use of spatiality in THREE early modern (1500–1700) texts of your choice.

Instruction: Answers of Section A and B are to be written in *two separate answer scripts*
Indicate Section A or B prominently on the top of your answer scripts

Section A [Marks 20]

- (a) Suppose the government were to subsidize the wages of all women in the population by paying their employers 50 cents for every hour they work. What would be the effect on the wage rate women received? What would be the effect on demand for women's labour in the economy? [2.5+2.5= 5]

(b) Is the following statement true, false, or ambiguous? Why? "If a married woman's husband gets a raise, she tends to work less, but if she gets a raise, she tends to work more."
[1.5+3.5 = 5]
- What are Trump's tariffs? What are their implications for global trade? Explain how Indian economy will be affected by Trump's tariffs? [1+3+6]

Section B [Marks 30]

- (a) What is an expenditure function? Is it always downward sloping in prices? [5]

(b) The firms operating in a perfectly competitive market can never make positive profit. Discuss. [5]
 - Answer any two: [5+5]

(a) What is "liquidity trap"? What kind of policy becomes effective during this situation?

(b) Explain the idea of expectation augmented Phillip's curve.

(c) What is meant by "price stickiness"? Explain some factors leading to this phenomenon.
 - (a) A is an invertible square matrix. Show that, for any positive integer r , $(A^{-1})^r = (A^r)^{-1}$. [5]

(b) Solve the following optimization problem: Minimize $x(x - b)$ subject to $0 \leq x \leq a$, where a and b are real positive number. [5]
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