ST MARY’S UNIVERSITY

TWICKENHAM, LONDON

BA/BSc Degree Examination students registered for

Level **FIVE**

Title: **English Literature and its Background, 1776-1832**

Code: **ENG5002**

Semester: **TWO**

Date: **May 23rd 2019**

Time: **9:30 – 11:30 AM**

TIME ALLOWED: **TWO** HOURS

Answer **TWO** questions. Each question is worth 50% of the marks.

You have two hours in which to complete the paper.

Please mark clearly on your answer book which questions you are attempting.

All questions carry equal marks.

1) *either*

1. John Keats is often described as fundamentally a pessimistic writer. How far do you agree with such a judgement, with reference to the work of John Keats and/or any other romantic-period writers?

*Or*

1. ‘Away! away! for I will fly to thee,

Not charioted by Bacchus and his pards,

But on the viewless wings of Poesy…’ (Keats, ‘Ode to a Nightingale’)

Discuss the ‘wings of Poesy’ - that is, the poetic imagination - in the work of John Keats, or that of any other romantic-period writer.

2) *either*

1. Discuss the concept and representation of the ‘Byronic hero’ in the poetry of Lord Byron or of any other romantic-period writer.

*or*

b. ‘Morn came and went—and came, and brought no day,

And men forgot their passions in the dread

Of this their desolation…’ (Byron, ‘Darkness’)

To what degree do you think Byron, or any other romantic-period writer, is primarily a poet of ‘darkness’ or pessimism about human society?

3) *either*

1. Discuss the ways in which P B Shelley, or any other romantic-period writer, engages with politics in their poetry.

*or*

1. ‘Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world.’ (P B Shelley, ‘A Defence of Poetry’).

Write an essay on the figure of the ‘poet’ or ‘artist’ in the work of P B Shelley, or that of any other romantic-period writer or writers.

4) Bob Southey! You're a poet, poet laureate,

And representative of all the race.

Although 'tis true that you turned out a Tory at

Last, yours has lately been a common case. (Byron, ‘Dedication’ to *Don Juan*)

Assess the importance of romantic-period writers’ engagement with the work of other writers

5) ‘Far from being “revolutionary”, English Romanticism is, ultimately, conservative in its worldview and politics.’ Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the work of one or more writers of the romantic period.

6) ‘For nearly two centuries, English ‘Romanticism’ was understood as consisting of six male poets and a few other guys. However, this view misses a number of women-writers, who were literary innovators, with their own stories to tell.’

Discuss this statement with reference to one or more female writers of the romantic period.

7) To what degree do you think any writer or writers of the romantic period could be described as precursors of an ‘environmentalist’ or ‘ecological’ way of thinking about the world?

**END OF EXAMINATION**