BEGC-104 (BAFEG)
British Poetry and Drama - 14th to 17th Century
Assignment July, 2026 & January 2027 Session

Course Code: BEGC-104/2026-27

Max. Marks: 100

Answer the following all questions.

Section A

1. **Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each:** 5X2= 10

   a) Metaphysical Poetry

   b) Spenserian Stanza

Section B

2. **Answer the following reference to the context in about 300 words each:** 3X10 = 30

   a) "Much pleasure, then thee much more must flow,
   And soonest our best men with thee do go,
   Rest of the bones, and soul's delivery."

   b) "Till swollen with cunning, of self conceit
   His waxen wings mount above his reach
   And melting heavens conspired his overthrow"

   c) "Which he ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to
   Till he unseam'd him from the nave to th' chops,
   And fix'd his head upon our battlements."

Section C

3. **Answer the following questions in about 800 words each.** 3X20=60

1. Write a critical appreciation "The Sun Rising".
2. Discuss *The Wife of Bath's Prologue* as a text containing social criticism.
3. Examine the themes and concerns of Shakespeare's Sonnets.

1. Write short notes on the following in about 200 words each: 5X2= 10

a) Metaphysical Poetry

Answer

Metaphysical poetry is a distinctive form of seventeenth-century English verse that brings intellectual argument and intense personal feeling together. John Donne is its most influential representative, while George Herbert, Andrew Marvell, Henry Vaughan and Richard Crashaw are often associated with the tradition. The poets deal with love, the body, religion, death, faith and the relations between human beings and the universe. What distinguishes their work is less a common subject than an unusual way of thinking through poetry.

A central feature is the **metaphysical conceit**: an extended, sometimes surprising comparison between apparently unrelated things. In Donne's "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning", two lovers are compared to the two legs of a compass. The image is clever, but it also conveys the steadiness of a relationship across physical distance. In "The Flea", a tiny insect becomes the unlikely basis of an argument about love and intimacy. Such comparisons make the reader follow an idea as well as experience an emotion.

Metaphysical poems frequently begin abruptly, sound like dramatic conversations and employ paradox, irony, questions and logical reasoning. Their rhythms can resemble urgent speech rather than smooth song. Sacred poems use similarly bold arguments to explore sin, salvation and the soul's relation to God. Donne's "Death Be Not Proud", for example, argues that death is less powerful than people believe. Samuel Johnson later criticised the poets for forcing distant ideas together, but modern readers value their wit and ability to unite thought with feeling. Metaphysical poetry therefore presents emotion as something examined, challenged and deepened by the mind. Its combination of argument and imagery can initially seem difficult, yet the difficulty usually serves an emotional purpose. A reader is invited to discover how an unusual comparison changes the meaning of love, devotion or fear. In this way the style reflects a restless age of religious debate and scientific curiosity without losing its deeply personal voice.