BEGE-106
Understanding Poetry
Assignment 2026-27
(Based on Blocks 1-8)

Course Code: BEGE-106/2026-27
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt all the questions.

1. Write short notes on any four of the following:

$4 \times 5 = 20$

   a. Pastoral
   b. Assonance
   c. Ballad
   d. Ode
   e. Alliteration
   f. Metaphor

2. Examine the key features of mock-heroic poetry. Support your answer with examples from Alexander Pope's "The Rape of the Lock"

20

3. Discuss the theme of the poem "The Scholar Gypsy"

20

4. What are the key characteristics of Indian English poetry? Discuss.

20

5. Discuss the significance of the title of the poem "No Second Troy" and explain how it relates to major themes explored in the poem.

20

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f. Metaphor

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Answer

a. Pastoral

Pastoral poetry presents the life of shepherds, villagers and people living close to nature. It usually places its characters among fields, hills, streams and grazing flocks. The word comes from the Latin word for a shepherd. A pastoral poem may seem to describe an ordinary rural scene, but it often uses that scene to explore larger matters such as love, simplicity, happiness, loss or the difference between an ideal life and actual human experience.

The pastoral tradition began in classical literature. The Greek poet Theocritus wrote poems about shepherds, while the Roman poet Virgil developed the form in his Eclogues. In English literature, Edmund Spenser's The Shepheardes Calender and Christopher Marlowe's “The Passionate Shepherd to His Love” are familiar examples. Marlowe's shepherd invites his beloved to share a life of pleasure in the countryside. The hills, flowers and streams create an attractive picture of rural happiness.

Pastoral poetry commonly uses beautiful natural imagery, simple settings and musical language. Its shepherds sometimes speak with an elegance that real shepherds might not possess. This shows that pastoral life is often an artistic ideal rather than a realistic report. The countryside becomes a place where a poet can imagine freedom from money, ambition, competition and the pressures of town life. At the same time, poets can question this ideal. Sir Walter Raleigh's “The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd,” for example, reminds readers that flowers fade and pleasant seasons end.

The pastoral form can also express grief. In a pastoral elegy, a poet mourns someone through images of shepherds and nature. Milton's “Lycidas” is an important example. Pastoral is therefore not simply a description of green fields. It is a flexible way of thinking about human life through the imagined world of nature. Its lasting attraction lies in the contrast it creates between a peaceful natural order and the worries of society.