

3 (Sem-6/CBCS) ENG HE 2

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ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-6026

(World Literature)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer any ten of the following as directed :

1×10=10

- (a) Who in V. S. Naipaul's *A Bend in the River* believes that men who are nothing, who allow themselves to become nothing, have no place in this world?
- (b) What is the symbolic implication of the Domain in V. S. Naipaul's *A Bend in the River*?

(c) Finally who becomes the owner of Salim's shop?

(d) In the play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, Rita Louise James is also known as _____.

(Fill in the blank)

(e) Which true story inspired Marie Clements to write the play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*?

(f) "One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes." Who in *The Little Prince* says this?

(g) The prince in *The Little Prince* is mystical and supernatural.

(Write True or False)

(h) What does the title of the poem, *Bora Ring* refer to?

(i) How many stanzas does the poem, *Bora Ring* consist of?

(j) What does the word 'corroboree' in the poem, *Bora Ring* mean?

(k) What represents Western culture in Gabriel Okara's poem, *The Mystic Drum*?

(l) What does the word 'smoke' in Gabriel Okara's poem, *The Mystic Drum* suggest?

(m) "I'm powerless to show any concern
For my own inevitable fate."

From which poem are the above lines quoted?

(n) Who is Kareisha?

(o) When the poet in the poem, *The Grass is Really Like Me* says 'me', what is she exactly referring to?

2. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

(a) Why was Salim in *A Bend in the River* arrested?

(b) What purpose does the presidential photograph in *A Bend in the River* serve?

(c) Why did Rebecca's mother disappear?

- (d) How does the little prince learn the true meaning of love?
- (e) How many protagonists are there in Antoine De Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*? Who are they?
- (f) What is 'alien tale' in the poem *Bora Ring*?
- (g) Write two points of similarity between the grass and a woman in the context of the poem, *The Grass is Really Like Me*.
- (h) What does the title of the poem, *The Mystic Drum* refer to?

3. Answer briefly any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

- (a) What are your views on the philosophy announced in the opening paragraph of the first chapter of *A Bend in the River*?
- (b) Why does Salim feel that he is geographically uprooted and culturally dislocated?
- (c) Why is the fox's eagerness to be tamed by the little prince significant?

(d) How does Judith Wright lament the loss of aboriginal culture in her poem, *Bora Ring*?

(e) What is free verse? Write a note on the use of it in the poem, *Bora Ring*.

(f) How does Gabriel Okara look at Western civilization in his poem, *The Mystic Drum*?

(g) Write a short note on the use of surrealism in the play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*.

(h) In the poem, *Assembly Line*, why does Shu Ting talk about the human condition as numb, empty and full of ennui?

4. Give illustrative answers to the following questions (any four) : 10×4=40

(a) The unnamed African setting in V. S. Naipaul's *A Bend in the River* can be taken as a microcosm of post-colonial Africa. Do you think so? Give a reasoned answer.

- (b) Can Indar be the fictional projection of the author? Why does he consider London as the only place he can call home?
- (c) Is Raymond a true historian of Africa in *A Bend in the River*? What is the purpose of Naipaul behind creating the character of Raymond? Explain.
- (d) How does Marie Clements examine and challenge assumptions about gender and indigeneity in her play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*?
- (e) What is your assessment of the character Rebecca in the play, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*? Throw light on all the aspects of her character.
- (f) Write a note on the use of symbols and metaphors in Antoine De Saint-Exupéry's novella, *The Little Prince*.
- (g) Offer your analysis of the character of the little prince. Why does he at last want to return to heaven?

- (h) Why does the poet allude to Cain in the last line of the poem, *Bora Ring*? Justify the significance of this allusion.
- (i) Write a note on the political context of Shu Ting's poem, *Assembly Line*.
- (j) What do you mean by world literature? What are the aspects associated with it? In your answer, refer to the texts prescribed.

3 (Sem-6/CBCS) ENG HE 3

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ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-6036

(Partition Literature)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer any *ten* of the following as directed :

1×10=10

(a) Who is the author of *The Other Side of Silence* ?

(b) Who was the Chairman of the Boundary Commission constituted on 30th June, 1947?

- (c) In which village in undivided India did Zakir spend his childhood?
- (d) During which movement did Zakir as a student observe demonstrations?
- (e) Zakir was a professor of _____.
(Fill in the blank)
- (f) Why were Tridib's parents always away in his childhood?
- (g) "Once you start moving you never stop."
Who is the speaker of the above line in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (h) "I want to live in neither Hindustan nor Pakistan ... I'd rather live on this _____."
(Fill in the blank)
- (i) Name the friend who comes to visit Bishan Singh in the asylum.
- (j) In which language was *A Leaf in the Storm* originally written?

- (k) Where did the exchange of women take place in *A Leaf in the Storm* ?
- (l) Name any one river mentioned in the poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal*.
- (m) Since which year had Raka's family started settling in different places in India?
- (n) Why does Alam think he had roots in Calcutta?
- (o) Who does the poet Gulzar want to meet at the border?

2. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) What is 'hizrat'?
- (b) Name the two parts that the novel, *The Shadow Lines* is divided into.
- (c) What did Alam's Baba do on the day of the crossing of the border?

- (d) What final solution does Mallika adopt?
- (e) What did the lunatic do after climbing the tree?
- (f) What would Bishan Singh do when it was time for his relatives and friends to visit him?
- (g) How does the poet express his desire to be reborn in Bengal?
- (h) How does Faiz Ahmed Faiz use the imagery of the beloved to depict love for his country?
3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :
5×4=20
- (a) Analyze the character of Sabirah.
- (b) How did Alam's Baba explain the idea of Partition to the compounder?
- (c) According to Feroze, what kind of differences are there between India and Bangladesh?

- (d) Describe how Mallika's dispossessed family spent their days at the railway station.
- (e) Show how the landscape of Bengal has shaped the poetic sensibility of Jibanananda Das.
- (f) How do the lunatics voice out their trauma at the idea of Partition?
- (g) Comment on the ending of Manto's story, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (h) Describe how the poem, *For Your Lanes, My Country* speaks of a strong commitment towards country.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) Discuss how Partition literature engages with the issues of identity, home and memory.
- (b) Examine critically Intizar Hussain's depiction of pre-Partition and post-Partition life in the novel, *Basti*.

Or

Discuss how Hussain dramatizes the psychological costs of loss of one's homeland and the resultant sense of alienation.

- (c) Critically comment on the title of the novel, *The Shadow Lines*.

Or

Discuss the idea of lines, maps and borders as presented in *The Shadow Lines*.

- (d) Discuss why the historical divide cannot be bridged in Dibyendu Palit's *Alam's Own House*.
- (e) Manto uses the motif of insanity to question the rationality of Partition that resulted in unprecedented suffering. Discuss with reference to *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (f) Examine *Toba Tek Singh* as a story of resistance.

- (g) Show how Gulzar uses his poetic imagination and adapts Manto's story, *Toba Tek Singh* to tell that the ordeal of Partition still continues.
- (h) Examine the women's experience during Partition with special reference to *The Final Solution* and *A Leaf in the Storm*.

3 (Sem-6/CBCS) ENG HE 5

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ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-6056

(Life Writing)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer any *ten* of the following as directed :

1×10=10

(a) Who was Bernard mentioned in *Confessions* ?

(b) In which year was Rousseau's *Confessions* published?

(c) Who was Reverend Howard Thomas?

(d) What is the central theme of Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* ?

- (e) Who is the narrator in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* ?
- (f) Which two books inspired Gandhi a lot during his childhood?
- (g) What made Gandhi ashamed of himself during his visit to South Africa?
- (h) What is the Urdu title of Ismat Chughtai's *A Life in Words : Memoirs* ?
- (i) Binodini Dasi was a pioneering figure in _____ theatre.
- (Fill in the blank)
- (j) Name the narrator of *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.
- (k) What role was Binodini Dasi given in the play called *Beni-Sanhar* ?
- (l) In which language was *The Outcaste* originally written?
- (m) Which game did the boys of the narrator's caste play during the picnic as mentioned in *The Outcaste* ?

- (n) "Men and even women stared at us and laughed, and heckled us. I realised what a burden a hijra's daily life is." Name the speaker of these lines.
- (o) In which year was Richard Wright's *Black Boy* written?

2. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) Write briefly about Rousseau's growing interest in reading during his childhood.
- (b) Comment on Duraisamy's experience at school.
- (c) Write a short note on Binodini Dasi as an actress.
- (d) Write briefly about the idea of racism as expressed in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- (e) Comment on Chughtai's participation in Janmashtami at Lalaji's house.
- (f) Write briefly about Gandhi's married life from your reading of *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

(Turn Over)

(g) Elaborate on Limbale's childhood as depicted in *The Outcaste*.

(h) Give a short introduction of A. Revathi.

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

5×4=20

(a) Write a short note on the character of M. Lambercier.

(b) Critically comment on the use of humour in the prescribed chapter of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

(c) Write briefly about Gandhi's experience of school life as narrated in *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

(d) Write a short note on the condition of marginalized women in the late nineteenth century Bengal from your reading of *My Story and Life as an Actress*.

(e) Elaborate on the idea of trans-sexuality from your reading of Revathi's *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.

(f) How does Chughtai explore female sexuality, class conflict and middle class morality in her memoir, *A Life in Words : Memoirs* ?

- (g) From your reading of *The Outcasts*, critically comment on the caste discrimination prevalent in the narrator's school.
- (h) Describe how Richard Wright was treated in an orphanage during his childhood.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) "With equal freedom and veracity have I related what was laudable or wicked, I have concealed no crimes, added no virtues; and if I have sometimes introduced superfluous ornament, it was merely to occupy a void occasioned by defect of memory." Do you think Rousseau's *Confessions* presents a true picture of the writer? Give a reasoned answer.
- (b) Discuss how Maya Angelou presents the foibles of the institutional church in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- (c) Consider Maya Angelou as an African-American feminist writer with special reference to her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

- (d) Comment on Gandhi's portrait as revealed in the prescribed sections of his book, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.
- (e) What aspects of Ismat Chughtai's life are revealed in the prescribed chapter of her book, *A Life in Words : Memoirs*? Discuss.
- (f) Do you think the socio-cultural history of the nineteenth century Bengal can be rewritten on the basis of Binodini Dasi's *My Story and Life as an Actress*? Give a reasoned answer.
- (g) What impression do you form of Binodini Dasi's personality from her book, *My Story and Life as an Actress*? Discuss.
- (h) Discuss how Revathi expresses the concerns of Indian trans-women known as 'hijra' in *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.

- (i) In his autobiography, *Black Boy*, Wright depicts themes of poverty, hunger and racism that beset the Blacks in America. Discuss with textual evidence.
- (j) Limbale's autobiographical novel, *The Outcaste* exposes violence and discrimination meted out to Dalit community. Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
