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ENGLISH

( Major )

Paper : 5.5

( **Life Writing** )

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer any *three* of the following questions :

10×3=30

- (a) "Samuel Johnson's *Life of Pope* is a balanced analysis of the character of the poet." Do you agree? Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
- (b) How does Trollope chart his development as a novelist in the Sixth Chapter of his *Autobiography*, especially with reference to *Barchester Towers*? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples from the text.
- (c) Critically examine R. K. Narayan's use of the form of the autobiography in his memoirs, *My Days*.

- (d) What does Franz Kafka's *Letter to My Father* reveal about his relations with his father and the nature of Kafka's mind?
- (e) What impression do you form of Dickinson's personality from her letters?
- (f) How does Tagore foreground his love of India and strong patriotic fervour in the two letters prescribed for you?
- (g) Provide your views on the difficulties faced by Ashutosh Mukherjee as an educationist in the context of his letter to Lord Lytton.

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

5×3=15

- (a) Elaborate on R. K. Narayan's childhood as depicted in his *My Days*.
- (b) Discuss briefly Ashutosh Mukherjee's advocacy of the autonomy of a university.
- (c) Critically comment on Kafka's handling of the epistolary form from your reading of the prescribed text.
- (d) "Of his domestic character frugality was a part eminently remarkable." (*Life of Pope*) Comment.

- (e) Analyze Tagore's dilemma over Christ's words 'Love thine enemies' as expressed in his letter to Mahatma Gandhi.
- (f) Elaborate on the idea expressed in *The Three Clerks*.

3. Answer the following questions : 2×4=8

- (a) Write briefly about R. K. Narayan's description of his school in *My Days*.
- (b) Mamie is the youngest daughter of the Bowles family. Name the other two children of Bowles.
- (c) What are Johnson's views on Pope's *Essay on Criticism*?
- (d) Briefly comment on Kafka's relationship with Ottla from your reading of Kafka's *Letter to My Father*.

4. Answer the following as directed : 1×7=7

- (a) Who wrote *Ode on Solitude*?
- (b) When was R. K. Narayan's *My Days* published?
- (c) What is Ashutosh Mukherjee's 'Alma Mater'?

(d) Who was the Viceroy to whom Tagore wrote his letter renouncing Knighthood?

(e) Carlo is the name of Emily Dickinson's  
\_\_\_\_\_.

( Fill in the blank )

(f) Who was Mrs. Samuel Bowles?

(g) What is Franzensbad as mentioned in Kafka's *Letter to My Father*?

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2019

ENGLISH

( Major )

Paper : 5.6

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions : 1×7=7

(a) In which two countries is Anita Desai's *Fasting, Feasting* situated?

(b) Who is 'Ramu' in *Fasting, Feasting*?

(c) Who is 'the Boss' in *The Fly*?

(d) What is the connection between Mr. Slade and Mrs. Ansley?

(e) Where does the story, *Heaven is not Closed* take place?

(f) What does the act of knitting signify in *Roman Fever*?

(g) What does the title, *Roman Fever* stand for?

2. Give short answers to the following (any four) :  
2×4=8

- (a) Who is Mira Masi? Which idol is she obsessed with?
- (b) According to which tradition do Galethebege and Ralokae get married and why?
- (c) What is the metaphorical significance of the fly in Katherine Mansfield's story?
- (d) What is meant by 'sister authoresses'?
- (e) Comment on the title of Alice James's *Going Downhill*.

3. Answer any three of the following : 5×3=15

- (a) Briefly describe Mama Papa and Uma's visit to the park and Papa's activities there.
- (b) "I had Barbara." Comment briefly on this statement.
- (c) Explain the following with reference to the context :

You want me to be like you Papa  
Or like Rani Lakshmibai,  
You are not sure what greatness is  
But you want me to be great.

(d) Critically comment on the following passage :

If you look up in time  
You might see the Peacock,  
Turning away as he gathers his tail.

4. Answer any three of the following questions :  
10×3=30

- (a) Comment on the intricate family relationships as depicted by Anita Desai in her novel, *Fasting, Feasting*.

Or

Analyze the use of food as a major trope in *Fasting, Feasting*.

- (b) Critically examine the changing relationship between Alida Slade and Grace Ansley in *Roman Fever*.
- (c) Comment on the colonial impact on Africa from your reading of *Heaven is not Closed*.
- (d) Critically analyze the theme of Death and Mourning in Katherine Mansfield's *The Fly*.
- (e) Assess *Tribute to Papa* as a critique of patriarchy.
- (f) How do the writings of Fanny Burney and Helen Maria Williams reflect issues concerning women in English society during their times?

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