

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2012
PART-III

ENGLISH — Honours
Paper-VIII

Duration : 4 Hours

Full Marks : 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to answer Q. No. 1 compulsorily
 and to choose *one* option from **Option - 1** and **Option - 2**.

1. Answer any *four* of the following in brief : 4 × 5 = 20
- a) Explain the term 'Modernism' with at least two suitable examples.
 - b) Write a brief note on the relationship between 'base' and 'superstructure'.
 - c) Mention at least three basic tenets of psychoanalytical criticism.
 - d) What is 'First-Wave Feminism' ?
 - e) Explain with suitable examples the terms 'centre' and 'margin'.
 - f) Write a brief note on 'hybridity' in the context of post-colonialism.

OPTION - 1 (Indian Writing in English)

Answer any *one* of the following. 1 × 10 = 10

2. a) Justify the title of the novel, *The English Teacher*.

OR

- b) Critically analyse the circumstances that led to the tragedy in Krishna's life in
The English Teacher.

- c) Comment on the art of story telling in *Kanthapura*.

OR

- d) Write a note on Gandhian nationalism as it is reflected in *Kanthapura*.
 e) Bring out the rich and the poor divide in *The Inheritance of Loss* and discuss the way in which it builds up the complexity of the novel.

OR

- f) Show how Desai explores the local and the global in *The Inheritance of Loss*.
 g) Is *Memories of Rain* a novel about the 'colonizer' and the 'colonized' ? Answer with reference to the relationship between Anthony and Moni.

OR

- h) What aspects of Bengali culture does Sunetra Gupta highlight in *Memories of Rain* ?

3. Answer briefly any *two* of the following from any *one* Group of your choice : $2 \times 5 = 10$

Group - 1

- a) What was the debate over English spelling among school staff ?
 b) Comment on the role of Leela in Krishna's Life.
 c) How does Krishna's mother help him after the death of Susila ?

Group - 2

- d) Comment on the role of Bade Khan in the novel *Kanthapura*.
 e) Comment on the relevance of temples and deities in the novel *Kanthapura*.
 f) What was the significance of the march to Boranna's toddy grove ?

Group - 3

- g) Examine briefly Biju's experience of migration.
 h) Comment on two elements of the conflict between past and present in *The Inheritance of Loss*.
 i) Comment on the relationship between Jemubhai and Nimi.

Group - 4

- j) Write a short paragraph on Oxford Street as described in the opening lines of *Memories of Rain*.
- k) Comment on Moni's relationship with Anthony's mother.
- l) Write a short note on Clare in *Memories of Rain*.

Section - 1

4. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) 'The Terrorist' by Mulk Raj Anand is about the realities and brutalities of the Indian freedom struggle. Discuss the above with reference to the text.
 - b) Comment on the narrative technique of the story, 'Glory at Twilight'.
 - c) Discuss how in 'The Accompanist' the climate of sensibility is more compelling than the visible action.
 - d) How does Sashi Deshpande make use of mythic parallels and allusions in 'My Beloved Charioteer' ?
 - e) What role does Nature play in determining human life-style in Tamsula Ao's 'The Journey' ?
 - f) Assess Ruskin Bond's 'My Father's Trees At Dehra' as a story of childhood memories and nostalgia.
5. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) What is your impression of the headstrong rebel in The Terrorist ?
 - b) Give two examples of how the author evokes scenes of rural Bengal in Glory at 'Twilight'.
 - c) "Play for me" — whose statement was this ? How did it affect Bhaiyya ?
 - d) Who is the beloved charioteer and why ?
 - e) Mention any two aspects of Naga life that 'The Journey' portrays.
 - f) "But Dehra is green." Prove this with examples from the narrative.

Section - 2

6. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) Elaborate how Sri Aurobindo's 'The Tiger and the Deer' is more of philosophy than poetry.
 - b) Comment on the title of the poem 'Ecology'.
 - c) With close reference to the text, illustrate how the theme of Ezekiel's 'Poet Lover, Bird Watcher' is expressed through images.

7. Comment with reference to the context on any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) 'The mighty perish in their might;
The slain survive the slayer.'
 - b) 'Time lifts the curtain unawares,
And sorrow looks into her face.'
 - c) 'Beneath your monstrous ego I ate the magic loaf.'
 - d) 'Long and lean her eyes were cold as rubber'
 - e) 'You turn around and face her
With an air of finality.
You want to end the farce.'

Section - 3

8. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10

- a) i) Comment critically on the title of *Bravely Fought the Queen*.

OR

- ii) How far does the stage technique assist in unfolding of the play, *Bravely Fought the Queen* ?

- b) i) Comment on the relationship between the siblings Tara and Chandan in the play *Tara*.

OR

- ii) What characteristics of Indian society do you find reflected in the play *Tara* ?

9. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10

- a) Comment on Kanhaiya.

OR

Comment on the relevance of any *two* of the films mentioned in the play, *Tara*.

- b) "She could have lived her life comfortably in royal grace and become a rajmata. But she wanted to sing!" Explain with reference to the context.

OR

"I am the violent one and you are the 'victim' of my wrath. You don't go out because I don't let you." Explain with reference to the context.

- c) Comment on the role of Sridhar or of Bharati.

OPTION - 2 (American Literature)

2. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 10 = 10

a) i) Would you agree with the view that 'freedom' is the central theme of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* ?

OR

ii) Write a note on the treatment of Jim in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

b) i) Critically explore the character of Daisy Buchanan in *The Great Gatsby*.

OR

ii) Comment on Fitzgerald's use of symbolism in *The Great Gatsby*.

c) i) Comment on the narrative technique of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

OR

ii) Tom Joad is a further development of Casey. Analyse the statement with reference to the text.

d) i) Discuss the author's portrayal of the Black community and the characters of Calpurnia and Tom Robinson in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

OR

ii) Critically analyse the course of the trial in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

e) i) Briefly discuss the depiction of the Southern Black community as portrayed in Alice Walker's *The Colour Purple*.

OR

ii) Describe the character of Sofia. What role does she play in the novel, *The Colour Purple* ?

3. Answer briefly any *two* of the following questions from any *one* Group : 2 × 5 = 10

Group - 1

a) What relation did Huck have with Widow Douglas and her sister Miss Watson ?

b) Why did Tom Sawyer suppress his knowledge of Jim's freedom to the last ?

c) How was Jim recaptured ?

Group - 2

d) Comment on the eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg in *The Great Gatsby*.

e) What was the end of Myrtle Wilson and what were its consequences ?

f) "I hope she'll be a fool — that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool". Who is the speaker ? What do you understand about the speaker's character from this quote ?

Group - 3

- g) "There ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue. There's just stuff people do." Explain.
- h) What role does Ma Joad play in holding the family together ?
- i) Can Noah be called a 'lotos-eater' ?

Group - 4

- j) Discuss the author's description of the Maycomb town in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- k) Examine Miss Maudie's relationship to the Finches.
- l) "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view." Explain with reference to the context.

Group - 5

- m) Explain the symbol of God in *The Colour Purple*.
- n) Briefly write on the role of Tashi in *The Colour Purple*.
- o) "Only a fool would want you to talk in a way that feel peculiar to your mind." Explain with reference to the context.

Answer any *one* of the following :

1 × 10 = 10

- a) What are the images used in Hawthorne's story 'The Ambitious Guest' ?
- b) In spite of being a chilling story, how Poe has used elements of humour in 'The Cask of Amontillado' ?
- c) Write a brief note on the character of Trysdale as depicted in 'The Cactus'.
- d) Do you consider fantasy to be the most important element that constitutes the short story 'The Monkey's Paw' ? Give reasons for your answer.
- e) Show how Odile's children bring about a metamorphosis in Mamzelle Aurélie's character.
- f) What impression do you form of the character of the narrator in 'On the Gull's Road' ?

Answer any *two* of the following :

2 × 5 = 10

- a) Who was the mountain nymph and what relation did she have with the Ambitious Guest ?
- b) What animus appears on Montessor's coat-of-arms ? How is it significant in the context of the story ?

- c) "... he had absorbed the oblation as a desert drinks the rain that can coax from it no promise of blossom or fruit." Who is "he" referred to here ? What does it tell you about 'his' character ?
- d) What is the significance of the game of chess in 'The Monkey's Paw' ?
- e) "Don't talk to me about children !" Who is the speaker ? Explain with reference to the text.
- f) "Out of all that is supposed to make for happiness she had very little." Who is being referred to here ? What is the reason behind such an observation ?

6. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 =

- a) Show how Emily Dickinson has presented Death in her poem, 'Because I Could Not Stop for Death'.
- b) Critically analyze either Allen Ginsberg's 'A Supermarket in California' or Gwendolyn Brooks's 'A Sunset of the City'.
- c) Write a brief note on the imagery used by Robert Frost in 'Desert Places'.

7. Explain and annotate any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 =

- a) 'And you that cross from shore to shore
 years hence, are more to me,
 and more in my meditations, than you might suppose.'
- b) 'Will we walk all night through solitary streets ? The trees add shade to shadows,
 lights out in the houses, we'll both be lonely.'
- c) 'I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood
 in human veins.'
- d) 'Daddy, daddy, you bastard, I'm through.'
- e) 'Your slightest look easily will unclose me
 though I have closed myself as fingers,
 You open always petal by petal.'

8. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10

a) i) Analyse William's use of symbols in *The Glass Menagerie*.

OR

ii) Tennessee Williams wrote in the production notes that "nostalgia ... is the first condition of the play". How will you judge *The Glass Menagerie* in this light ?

b) i) Comment on the structural techniques used by Albee in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

OR

ii) The central theme of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* is that human beings must learn to live without illusions. Do you agree ?

9. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10

a) i) "But man proposes — and woman accepts the proposal." Explain with reference to the context.

OR

ii) "He is dead, Kyrie eleison; Christee eleison, Kyrie eleison." Explain.

b) i) Tom calls Laura 'peculiar'. Do you agree ? Justify your answer.

OR

ii) Why does Martha cry out in Act III, "You can't do that !" ?

c) i) Why did Jim call Laura 'Blue Roses' when they were studying at the same school ?

OR

ii) Why does Honey fall sick so often ?

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