

**West Bengal State University**  
**B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2013**

**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 possible.*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

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

1. Answer any four of the following : 5 × 4 = 20

- a) Distinguish between the 'Signifier' and the 'Signified'.
- b) Mention at least three features of Diaspora Literature.
- c) Explain the notion of 'hegemony' after Gramsci.
- d) What are the basic tenets of Feminist Criticism ?
- e) How would you distinguish post-modernism from modernism ?
- f) What does Marx mean by 'class-struggle' ?

**OPTION - I**

*( Indian Writing in English )*

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

- a) Compare and contrast Krishna's hostel life and his family life with Susila in the novel. *The English Teacher*. How did the two lives help to develop his, personality ?

OR

- b) In *The English Teacher* R. K. Narayan has "deftly woven tragedy and humour". Discuss.

c) What role does ceremony and religion play in *Kanthapura* ?

OR

d) Give a critical analysis of the character of Moorthy in *Kanthapura*.

e) Bring out how *The Inheritance of Loss* illuminates the consequences of colonialism.

OR

f) Comment on how the novel, *The Inheritance of Loss* is poised between the migrant and the resident. Answer with reference to any two characters.

g) Comment on the narrative technique of *Memories of Rain*.

OR

h) How does the city of Calcutta play a role in *Memories of Rain* ? Answer with reference to Moni and Anthony's experiences.

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

**Group-1**

a) Briefly comment on the role of Krishna's father in shaping his future.

b) Describe Krishna's view of the English education system at the time of his resignation.

c) Specify two autobiographical elements in *The English Teacher*.

**Group-2**

d) *Sthalapurana*.

e) *Kenchamma*.

f) Discuss how the *Harikatha* became a vehicle for inspiring nationalism among the masses.

**Group-3**

g) Comment on Biju's relationship with Saeed.

h) Show how Jemubhai depicts his hatred and disgust for Indian ways and customs.

i) Comment on the character of the cook in *The Inheritance of Loss*.

**Group-4**

- j) Comment on the significance of any one of Rabindranath's songs used in the novel, *Memories of Rain*.
- k) Comment on the role of Anna in *Memories of Rain*.
- l) Write a short note on Moni's family in Calcutta.

4. Answer any *one* of the following :

1 × 10 = 10

- a) Give a perspective of two characters other than Bir Singh in the short story, "The Terrorist".
- b) Show how Desai depicts the inner conflicts in the life of 'the accompanist' and how he gets over them.
- c) Justify the title of the story 'Glory at Twilight'.
- d) Write a note on the mother-daughter relationship in 'My Beloved charioteer'.
- e) How does the writer create a sense of place in the story 'The Journey' ?
- f) How does Ruskin Bond intertwine the past and the present in " My Father's Trees in Dehra" ?

5. Answer any *two* of the following :

2 × 5 = 10

- a) How did Bir Singh interpret the derisive smiles of the English ministers sitting at the head of the official benches in Parliament.
- b) Account for the role of Bhaiyya's friends in the story, 'The Accompanist'.
- c) What event marked the meteoric rise in Satyajit's career in the story 'Glory at Twilight' ?
- d) Comment on the significance of the mythical reference in 'My Beloved Charioteer'.

- e) Who made 'the journey' and why ?
- f) ' No one was any longer interested in the Europeans' — In what context does Ruskin Bond say so ?

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

- a) Critically analyse the kinds of hunger portrayed in Jayanta Mahapatra's poem 'Hunger'.
- b) Analyse the symbols used in Kamala Das's poem 'The Old Playhouse'.
- c) Show how Kolatkar heightens his central theme of alienation through imagery and symbolism in his poem, 'An Old Woman'.

7. Comment, with reference to the context, on any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10

- a) "... At every tear she sheds  
Tears from three pairs of young eyes fall amain,"
- b) "The best poets wait for words".
- c) ".....out there Red Champak trees  
Had done it again".
- d) "Who shall prevent the subtle years,  
Or shield a woman's eyes from tears ?"
- e) "The Wind slipped through the leaves  
as if afraid lest its voice  
And the noise of its steps perturb  
Pitiless splendour.

8.

9.

F

8. Answer any *one* of the following :

1 × 10 = 10

- a) Comment on the all pervasive symbol of the bonsai in *Bravely Fought the Queen*.

OR

- b) Comment on how Dattani deals with question of gender role in his play, *Bravely Fought the Queen*.

- c) Comment critically on the title of *Tara* :

OR

- d) How does Dattani present Chandan and Dan in *Tara* ? Answer with close reference to the text.

9. Answer any *two* of the following :

2 × 5 = 10

- a) Comment on Dr. Thakker's discrimination against Tara.

OR

Comment on Alka's dancing in the rain.

- b) "... I don't suppose Jiten mentioned our daughter to you ?" Explain.

OR

"We get them in pairs. My twin brother wears the other one", Comment on the statement.

- c) Comment on the role of Lalitha.

OR

Explain the role of Tara's local friends.

**OPTION - 2**

( American Literature )

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

a) Consider the role of the river Mississippi in *Huckleberry Finn*.

OR

Examine *Huckleberry Finn* as a novel of social criticism.

b) Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* delineates the American Dream. Do you agree ? Justify your answer with illustrations from the text.

OR

Discuss Gatsby's character as Nick perceives throughout the novel *The Great Gatsby*.

c) Justify the significance of title of the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by Steinbeck.

OR

Would you agree with the view that the moral philosophy of Jim Casey governs the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* as a whole ? Discuss with reference to the text.

d) Discuss Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mocking Bird* as an antiracist novel.

OR

Assess the significance of the role of Boo Radley in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mocking Bird*.

e) Discuss Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* as an epistolary novel.

OR

Analyse critically the various human relationship in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

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

**Group-1**

- a) '... that book – which is mostly a true book, with some stretchers, as I said before'.— Who says this ? Which book is referred to here ? Comment on the writing style of this line.
- b) How did Pap get hold of Huck ?
- c) How were the Duke and the King caught and what did happen to them at the end ?

**Group-2**

- d) 'Gatsby believed in the green light ...' Explain the significance of the 'green light' which recurs as a motif and symbol in *The Great Gatsby*.
- e) Describe the incident at Plaza Hotel.
- f) "I'm going to fix everything just the way it was before". Why does Gatsby say this ? Is he able to 'fix everything' as he says he would.

**Group-3**

- g) "There is a crime here which goes beyond denunciation. There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolize. There is a failure here that topples all our success". Explain the significance of these lines.
- h) Briefly narrate the Joads' experience at Woodpatch Camp.
- i) Critically analyse the significance of the Wilson episode.

**Group-4**

- j) Why does Atticus choose not to reveal to his children that Judge Taylor appointed him to defend Tom's case ?
- k) Contextualize and explain the statement : "Most people are [ nice ], scout, when you finally see them".
- l) In which incident does Jem break his arm ?

**Group-5**

- m) How did Celie pass her life before her marriage to Mr .....
- n) " Dear God. Dear starts, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything. Dear God." Explain with reference to the context.
- o) Comment critically on two instances of domestic violence in the novel, *The Color Purple*.

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

- a) How does Hawthorne show in his story *The Ambitious Guest*, the futility of human aspiration in the face of elemental forces of Nature ?
- b) Comment on Edgar Allan Poe's handling of mystery and horror in *The Cask of Amontillado*.
- c) Write a short critical note on O. Henry's narrative technique in *The Cactus*.
- d) "The *Monkey's Paw* should be regarded as a moral tale rather than a supernatural story." Discuss. 6.
- e) 'Kate Chopin's *Regret* develops the idea that 'to experience life richly a woman needs a child or children to love and care for'. Do you agree ? Discuss the theme of motherhood as developed by Kate Chopin in her story.
- f) Analyse Willa Cather's *On the Gull's Road* as a story of love.

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

- a) "As yet", cried the stranger, his cheek glowing and his eye flashing with enthusiasm, — " as yet, I have done nothing. Were I to vanish from the earth to-morrow, none would know so much of me as you; that a nameless youth came up ...". Identify the speaker and explain the context of the speech. 7.
- b) 'For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. *In pace requiescat* !' — Explain the last line of the short story *The Cask of Amontillado*.
- c) Describe after O. Henry the image of the wedding scene that haunts Trysdale in *The Cactus*.
- d) "He heard the creaking of the bolt as it came slowly back, and at the same moment he found the monkey's paw, and frantically breathed his third and last wish". Explain with reference to the context.



- e) In Kate Chopin's short story *Regret* how did Mamzelle Aurelie feel after the children had left ?
- f) "Was it her loveliness, I often ask myself, or her loneliness, or her simplicity, or was it merely her own youth ?" Was her mystery only that of the mysterious North out of which she came ? Explain with reference to W. S. Cather's *On the Gull's Road*.

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

- a) Analyse the structure of Whitman's *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry* to show how repetition of words and phrases reinforces the thematic content of the poem.
- b) Analyse the theme of E. E. Cummings' *Somewhere I have never travelled* or Langston Hughes' *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*.
- c) Analyse Sylvia Plath's *Daddy* as an autobiographical poem endowed with rich symbols.

7. Explain and annotate any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10

- a) Aisles full of husbands ! Wives in the avocados,

babies in the tomatoes ! — and you,

Garcia Lorca, what were you doing down by the

watermelons ?

- b) And lonely as it is that loneliness

Will be more lonely ere it will be less

A blanker whiteness of benighted snow

With no expression , nothing to express.

c) We paused before a house that seemed

A swelling of the ground;

The roof was scarcely visible,

The cornice but a mound.

d) I am cold in the cold house

Where washed echoes are tremulous down lost halls.

e) Every woman adores a Fascist,

The boot in the face, the brute

Brute heart of a brute like you.

8. Answer any *one* of the following :

1 × 10 = 10

a) Discuss *The Glass Menagerie* as a memory play.

OR

Comment on Williams' presentation of Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*.

b) 'Albee's work is characterized by an overwhelming sense of loss'— Would you agree with this statement from your reading of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* ? Justify your answer with reference to the text.

OR

Describe the four games that are played in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. What do they signify ?

9. Answer any *two* of the following :

2 × 5 = 10

a) What is the significance of Laura's Unicorn ? Why does Laura give the Unicorn to Jim ?

OR

Why is Second Act of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* called 'Walpurgisnacht' ?

- b) "Go to the movies. go! Don't think about us, a mother deserted, an unmarried sister who's crippled and has no job ! Don't let anything interfere with your selfish pleasure !" Explain with reference to the context.

OR

Explain the significance of the cocktail party as the setting of the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

- c) Why does Amanda blame Tom for the failure of the evening ?

OR

What purpose does the imaginary son of George and Martha serve in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* ? Briefly justify your answer with reference to the text.