

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2014

PART - III

ENGLISH - (Honours)

PAPER - VIII

Duration : 4 Hours

Maximum 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 Question No. 1 compulsorily
and to choose one option from Option - 1 and Option - 2.

1. Answer any four of the following : 4 × 5 = 20
- a) What are the synchronic and diachronic approaches to language ?
 - b) Define the term 'Ecriture Feminism'.
 - c) Indicate the basic tenets of Post-modernism.
 - d) Write a note on 'Otherness' in Post-colonialism referring to any two major critics.
 - e) Write a note on the relationship between Base and Superstructure.
 - f) Explain Gynocriticism.

OPTION - 1

(Indian Writing in English)

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

a) Does the epithet to 'English Teacher' aptly describe Krishna ? Discuss.

OR

b) "*The English Teacher* is the song of love in marriage." Discuss.c) "The telling has not been easy." Discuss the narrative technique of *Kanthapura* in the light of the above statement.

OR

d) Discuss the impact of Gandhian nationalism upon rural life with reference to *Kanthapura*.e) How does Kiran Desai deal with the 'global conflicts of religion, race and nationalism' in *The Inheritance of Loss* ?

OR

f) How is the theme of loss explored in *The Inheritance of Loss* ?g) Do you consider Sunetra Gupta's *Memories of Rain* a novel about the clash of cultures ? Illustrate your answer.

OR

h) Comment on the aptness of the title of *Memories of Rain*.3. Answer briefly any *two* of the following from any *one* Group of your choice :2 × 5 = 10**GROUP - 1**

a) How does Krishna's mother help him after the death of Sushila ?

b) What was the debate over English spelling in *The English Teacher* ?

c) "It was a moment of rare, immutable joy — a moment for which one feels grateful to Life and Death." Comment.

GROUP - 2d) Comment on the relevance of temples and deities in *Kanthapura*.e) Comment on the role of Bade Khan in *Kanthapura*.

f) Bring out the significance of the march to Boranna's toddy grove.

GROUP - 3

- g) Comment on the role of Nimi in *The Inheritance of Loss*.
- h) What is the significance of the Gorkha insurgency in the plot of Kiran Desai's novel?
- i) What were the reasons for which Gyan thought he could betray Sai?

GROUP - 4

- j) '... this rain is ravishing he told her, this rain is like an inexhaustible torrent of love,' — comment.
 - k) Explore Anna's relationship with Anthony.
 - l) Comment on the use of flashbacks in Sunetra Gupta's *Memories of Rain*.
4. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) Who is the terrorist in Mulk Raj Anand's *The Terrorist*? Justify with close reference to the text.
 - b) Discuss *The Accompanist* in the light of the Indian Guru-Shishya tradition with close reference to the text.
 - c) Comment on the narrative technique of the story *Glory at Twilight*.
 - d) How does Sashi Deshpande make use of mythic parallels and allusions in *My Beloved Charioteer*?
 - e) What glimpses of life in the North East are available in *The Journey*?
 - f) How does Ruskin Bond explore man's rootedness to nature in *My Father's Trees in Dehra*?
5. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) "Only I wished he would tell me what he planned to play before the concert began so that I could prepare myself." Bring out the significance of the statement.
 - b) Comment on the reference to the picture of the Buddha in *The Terrorist*.
 - c) Give a description of Dilaram Bazar from *My Father's Trees in Dehra*.
 - d) What role does the brother play in *The Journey*?
 - e) How does the expression "Glory was dead" capture the essence of the story *Glory at Twilight*?
 - f) What do we gather about Ajji's married life from her account of it in *My Beloved Charioteer*?

6. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) Comment on the significance of the title of the poem *Ecology*.
 - b) Show how Toru Dutt blends the mythical and the autobiographical elements in the poem *Sita*.
 - c) Show how the theme of Ezekiel's poem *Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher* is expressed through the images.
7. Comment, with reference to the context, on any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) Beneath the monstrous ego I ate the magic loaf.
 - b) For, love is Narcissus at the water's edge.
 - c) Time lifts the curtain unawares
And sorrow looks into her face
 - d) The mighty perish in their might;
The slain survive the slayer.
 - e) I saw his white bone thrash his eyes.
8. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) In Dattani's *Bravely Fought the Queen* the title has a "heroic slant that points at the grandeur of traditional drama, but the content is doggedly anti-heroic". Critically discuss this view.
- OR
- b) Comment on the theme of love and marriage as presented by Dattani in *Bravely Fought the Queen*.
 - c) What characteristics of Indian society do you find reflected in the play *Tara* ?
- OR
- d) Comment on the recurring motifs used by Dattani in *Tara*.
9. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) Comment on Dan's attitude to his father.
- OR
- b) Comment on the two Trivedi brothers.

- c) "Two lives and one body, in one comfortable womb. Till we were forced out ..." Explain with reference to the context.

OR

- d) Comment on Dolly's demonstration of Daksha's dancing.
e) Comment on the relevance of any *two* films mentioned in the play, *Tara*.

OR

- f) "I grow bonsai plants. I've been growing them for years." Explain with reference to the context.

OPTION - 2

(American Literature)

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

- a) i) Would you agree that 'Freedom' is the central theme of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* ? Justify your answer.

OR

- ii) Analyse two important episodes of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

- b) i) Comment on Fitzgerald's use of symbols in *The Great Gatsby*.

OR

- ii) Discuss the aptness of the title of the novel, *The Great Gatsby*.

- c) i) Comment on the structure of the novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

OR

- ii) Discuss Steinbeck's art of characterization as exemplified in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

- d) i) Critically analyse the course of the trial in Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

OR

- ii) How fair is it to call the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* a Bildungsroman ?

- e) i) Write a note on Alice Walker's portrayal of women in *The Color Purple*.

OR

- ii) Comment on Alice Walker's use of symbols in *The Color Purple*.

3. Answer any *two* of the following from any *one* Group of your choice :

2 × 5 = 10

GROUP - 1

- a) What role does Tom Sawyer play in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* ?
- b) Why did Huck escape from Widow Douglas ?
- c) How was Jim recaptured ?

GROUP - 2

- d) What is the significance of the Valley of Ashes in *The Great Gatsby* ?
- e) Critically comment on Gatsby's death.
- 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 impression do you get of the speaker's character from this extract ?

GROUP - 3

- g) Give an example of a Biblical allusion found in *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- h) How does Grandpa Joad die ?
- i) "There ain't no sin and there ain't no virtue. There's just stuff people do." Explain.

GROUP - 4

- j) What role does Boo Radley play in the childhood world of Jem and Scout ?
- k) What is unique in the parenting style of Atticus Finch in the novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* ?
- 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) What does the act of sewing signify in *The Color Purple* ?
- n) What is the significance of the colour purple in the novel, *The Color 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.

4. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 10 = 10
- a) Explain the significance of the title of Hawthorne's story, *The Ambitious Guest*.
 - b) Write a brief note on the character of Montessor in *The Cask of Amontillado*.
 - c) Comment on O. Henry's use of irony in the story, *The Cactus*.
 - d) Show how, in spite of being a tale of fantasy, *The Monkey's Paw* reveals the mindsets of a mother and father.
 - e) Do you find the title of Kate Chopin's story, *Regret* justified ? Explain your view.
 - f) Write a note on the character of the narrator in the story, *On the Gull's Road*.
5. Answer any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) "But I cannot die till I have achieved my destiny."
Who is the speaker ? Place this remark in the context of the story.
 - b) Why does Montessor take his revenge on Fortunato and how in *The Cask of Amontillado* ?
 - c) Why does the narrator in *The Cactus* pretend to know Spanish ?
 - d) What is the second wish in *The Monkey's Paw* ? How is the wish granted ?
 - e) "They call it by this name — Ventomarme." Explain.
 - f) "She cried like a man, with sobs that seemed to tear her very soul."
Explain with reference to the context.
 - g) "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 = 10
- a) Show how Emily Dickinson presents Death in her poem, *Because I Could not Stop for Death*.
 - b) Write a brief note on Robert Frost's use of images in *Desert Places*.
 - c) Comment on the setting of old age in *A Sunset of the City* and the title of the poem.
7. Explain and annotate any *two* of the following : 2 × 5 = 10
- a) Will we walk all night through solitary streets ?
The trees add shade to shade, lights out in the houses, we'll both be lonely.

- b) I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.
I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.
- c) whose texture
compels me with the color of its countries,
rendering death and forever with each breathing.
- d) And I incline this ear to fin,
Consult a dual dilemma. Whether to dry
In humming pallor or to leap and die.
- e) Daddy, daddy, you bastard, I'm through.

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

- a) i) How do the characters in *The Glass Menagerie* respond to the social reality of the contemporary world ?

OR

- ii) Analyse Tennessee William's use of symbols in *The Glass Menagerie*.

- b) i) Discuss the significance of the title of Albee's play, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

OR

- ii) Comment on Albee's characterization of women in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

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) "You didn't do anything, you never do anything; you never mix." Explain.

- b) i) What does the fire escape signify in *The Glass Menagerie* ?

OR

- ii) Why did Nick marry Honey ?

- c) i) "Horn ! It doesn't matter, May be it's a blessing in disguise." Explain with reference to the context.

OR

- ii) Why did George decide to kill the imaginary child ?
