

B.A./Part-III/Hons/ENGA-VIII/2016



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Honours PART-III Examination, 2016

ENGLISH-HONOURS

Paper- ENGA-VIII

NEW AND OLD SYLLABUS

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-1 (Indian Writing in English) and Option-2 (American Literature).

Use separate answer scripts for [Indian Writing in English] and for [American Literature]

NEW SYLLABUS

1. Answer any *four* questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- What do you understand by the terms 'symbolic' and 'semiotic'?
 - What are the synchronic and diachronic approaches to language?
 - How would you distinguish post-modernism from modernism?
 - What is 'Ecriture Feminism'?
 - How does postcolonial criticism address the issue of imperialism?
 - What does 'ideology' mean in the context of Marxist criticism?

Option-I
(Indian Writing In English)
Group-A

2. Answer any *one* of the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on Jayanta Mahapatra's handling of pathos in "Hunger".
 - (b) How does Swami Vivekananda pay homage to the primordial energy manifested in the mother figure in his poem "Kali the Mother".
 - (c) Discuss Kamala Das' treatment of the theme of futility in the poem "In Love".
 - (d) What is the significance of the journey in the poem "The Enterprise"? Discuss with reference to the text.

Group-B

3. Answer any *one* of the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) It has been said that *The Serpent and the Rope* is a profound manifestation of Indian metaphysics. Discuss.
 - (b) Comment on the nature of marriage revealed in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (c) Comment on the significance of the title, *The Shadow Lines*.
 - (d) Write a note on the narrative technique of *The Shadow Lines*.

Group-C

4. Answer any *one* of the following in about 500 words. 15×1 = 15
- (a) Is "The Accompanist" by Anita Desai an allegory? Give reasons for your answer.
 - (b) How has Rushdie presented the commingling of eastern and western cultures in "Chekov and Zulu"?
 - (c) Write a note on the theme of "The Lost Child".
 - (d) "A Horse and Two Goats" is a story of a moment that is largely centered around contrast and juxtaposition. Elucidate.

Group-D

5. Answer any *one* of the following in about 500 words: $15 \times 1 = 15$
- (a) Illustrate how Mahesh Dattani reveals the suffering of Tara in his play?
 - (b) Show how Dattani uses stagecraft to depict variations in space and time in Tara.
 - (c) Analyse Currimbhoy's *The Refugee* as a play that dramatizes the loss and suffering associated with the refugee crisis in 1971.
 - (d) Comment on the relationship between Sen Gupta and Prof Mosin in the play *The Refugee* and how the entry of Yassin affects it.

Group-E

6. Locate and annotate any *one* of the following in about 200 words. $5 \times 1 = 5$
- (a) You murmured the word, sliding it on your tongue,
trying to get how a girl could turn
into a molten thing and not burn.
 - (b) You held a wine-cup in your fingertips,
Lightly you raised it to indifferent lips,
Lightly you drant and flung away the bowl...
Alas! It was my soul.
 - (c) Where is room, excuse or even
Need for love, for isn't each
Embrace a complete thing a finished
Jigsaw...
 - (d) But a day may yet come when the tiger crouches and
leaps no more in the
dangerous heart of the forest,
As the mammoth shakes no more the plains of Asia.

7. Answer any *one* of the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the representation of Brahminism in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (b) Comment briefly on the title of *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (c) Briefly comment on the narrator's relation with his cousin in *The Shadow Lines*.
 - (d) Comment briefly on the character of Thamma.
8. Answer any *one* of the following in about 200 words. 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the stranger who tried to soothe the lost child.
 - (b) What is the significance of the nicknames of Chekov and Zulu?
 - (c) Explain with reference to the context: "Play for me".
 - (d) What is the business transaction that takes place between Muni and the American businessman in "A Horse and Two Goats"?
9. Answer any *one* of the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the role played by the grandfather in Dattani's play *Tara*.
 - (b) Explain with reference to the context: "You're welcome. As friends and neighbours, you're welcome."
 - (c) Locate and explain "Forgive me, Tara. Forgive me for making it my tragedy."
 - (d) "And they are growing in numbers all the time. We're calling an emergency meeting of the town elders. This can't go on. We'll seal the borders." Explain with reference to the context.

Option-II

(American Literature)

Group-A

2. Attempt any *one* of the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Walt Whitman's treatment of nature in *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*.
 - (b) Analyse the form and content of E.E. Cummings's 'somewhere I have never travelled' or Langston Hughes's *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*.
 - (c) Show how Emily Dickinson treats Death in the poem, *Because I could not stop for Death*.
 - (d) Can you call Bob Dylan's *How Many Roads Must A Man Walk Down* a dig at the injustice and the insensitivity of the world? Justify your answer.

3. Explain and annotate any *one* of the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) And you that shall cross from shore to shore
Years hence, are more to me, and more
in my meditations, than you might suppose.
 - (b) i do not know what it is about you that closes
and opens; only something in me understand
the voice of your eyes is deeper than all rose /
 - (c) In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.
You open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens
(touching skillfully, mysteriously) her first rose.

Group-B

4. Attempt any *one* of the following: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on the use of symbols in "*The Great Gatsby*".
- Or
- (b) Discuss the aptness of the title of the novel *The Great Gatsby*.

(c) Write a note on Alice Walker's portrayal of women in *The Color Purple*.

Or

(d) Briefly Discuss the depiction of the Southern Black community as portrayed in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

5. Answer briefly any *one* of the following: 5×1 = 5

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

(b) Comment on Fitzgerald's depiction of East Egg and the West Egg.

(c) Explain the following with reference to the context: "First time somebody made something and named it after me".

(d) Narrate the circumstances that lead Celie to open her own business.

Group-C

6. Answer any *one* of the following: 15×1 = 15

(a) What are the images used in Hawthorne's story "The Ambitious Guest"?

(b) What impression do you form of the character of Trysdale as depicted in "The Cactus"?

(c) Discuss the aptness of the title of Chopin's short story "Regret"?

(d) Write a brief note on the character of Montresor in "The Cask of Amontillado".

7. Answer any *one* of the following: 5×1 = 5

(a) "The secret of the young man's character was, a high and abstracted ambition". Locate and explain.

(b) Describe, after O. Henry, the consequence of the following: "I will send you my answer tomorrow", she said.

(c) Comment on the context of the statement: "The excitement was all over, and they were gone".

Group-D

8. Attempt any *one* question from the following: 15×1 = 15
- (a) *Death of a Salesman* presents Willy's blind faith in his stunted version of the American Dream and his final disillusionment. Discuss.
- (b) Comment on Arthur Miller's use of naturalism and psychological realism in the portrayal of characters and theme in *Death of a Salesman*.
9. Answer any *one* question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) "Nothing is planted. I don't have a thing in the ground". – Explain with reference to the context.
- (b) "He's a man way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine A salesman is got to dream, boy". – Explain with reference to the context.
- (c) How does Happy react before Willy Loman's grave?

OLD SYLLABUS

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-1 (Indian Writing in English) and Option-2 (American Literature).

Use separate answer scripts for [Indian Writing in English] and for [American Literature]

1. Answer any *four* questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- (a) Who has used the term 'langue' and 'parole' and what do they signify?
- (b) Explain the term 'Modernism' with at last two suitable examples.
- (c) What is 'First Wave Feminism'?

- (d) Write a brief note on the relationship between 'base' and 'superstructure'.
- (e) Mention at least three basic tenets of psychoanalytic criticism.
- (f) How is 'mimicry' defined in Postcolonial criticism?

Option-I

(Indian Writing In English)

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

- (a) Discuss the role played by the circumstances in the tragedy in Krishna's life in *The English Teacher*.

Or

Who is the 'English Teacher' in R.K. Narayan's novel? How does his career unfold through the novel?

- (b) Write a brief note on the influence of Gandhian nationalism on Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*.

Or

Would you say that the novel *Kanthapura* is a 'Sthalapurana'? Justify your answer.

- (c) Comment on the characterization of Biju in Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*.

Or

Would you agree with the view that Desai's novel *The Inheritance of Loss* is a postcolonial novel? Give reasons for your answer.

- (d) Write a short note on the significance of the title, *Memories of Rain*.

Or

Critically comment on the relationship between the East and the West as portrayed through the characters in Sunetra Gupta's novel.

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

Group-I

- (a) Specify two autobiographical elements in *The English Teacher*.
- (b) How does Krishna react to the death of Sushila?
- (c) "It was a moment of rare, immutable joy – a moment for which one feels grateful to Life and Death." – Comment.

Group-II

- (d) What is the significance of the preface in *Kanthapura*.
- (e) What role does the 'Harikatha' play in the village of Kanthapura?
- (f) Who was Bade Khan?

Group-III

- (g) What is the role played by Sai in *The Inheritance of Loss*.
- (h) What is the significance of Jemubhai Patel's manner of eating chapatis?
- (i) Write a short note on the Gorkhaland movement as depicted in Desai's novel.

Group-IV

- (j) Write a short note on Anna's relationship with Anthony.
- (k) Comment on the use of Flashbacks in Gupta's novel.
- (l) Briefly describe the role of Clara in *Memories of Rain*.

4. Answer any *one* question from the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$

- (a) What impression of the protagonist do you form in the story "The Terrorist".

- (b) Can Anita Desai's 'The Accompanist' be read as an allegory? Justify your answer.
- (c) Comment on the narrative technique of the story 'Glory at Twilight'.
- (d) Who is the 'beloved charioteer' and why?
- (e) Assess Ruskin Bond's 'My Father's Trees at Dehra' as a story of childhood.
- (f) What role does Nature play in Temsula Ao's 'The Journey'?
5. Answer any *two* questions from the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$
- (a) Why does the author in 'The Terrorist' say, "But for all its patriotism, it was a ridiculous smile."
- (b) Explain the significance of the statement: "Only I wished he would tell me what he planned to play before the concert began..." ('The Accompanist').
- (c) Write a short note on Aiji's married life in *My Beloved Charioteer*.
- (d) "But Dehra is green" – Illustrate from the text.
- (e) What is the destination of the journey in Temsula Ao's 'The Journey'?
- (f) How does the expression "Glory was dead" capture the essence of the story 'Glory at Twilight'?
6. Answer any *one* question from the following: $10 \times 1 = 10$
- (a) Critically comment on Toru Dutt's poem, 'Sita'.
- (b) Comment on the title of Mahapatra's poem, 'Hunger'.
- (c) How do the identities of the poet, lover and bird-watcher merge together in the poem, 'Poet, Lover, and Bird Watcher'?
7. Comment, with reference to the context, any *two* of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$
- (a) "No more singing, no more dance".

- (b) "But a day may yet come where the tiger
 crouches and
 leaps no more..."
- (c) "You turn around and face her
 with an air of finality"
- (d) "Our three red champak trees
 had done it again"
- (e) "Who shall prevent the subtle years,
 Or shield a woman's eyes from tears?"

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

- (a) Comment on the title of Dattani's play, *And Bravely Fought the Queen*.

OR

Write a short note on the characterization of Baa in Dattani's play.

- (b) Comment on Dattani's treatment of the girl child in *Tara*.

Or

Discuss briefly Dattani's use of stagecraft in his play *Tara*.

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

- (a) Comment on any one symbol used in Dattani's play *And Bravely Fought the Queen*.

Or

Comment on the title of the play *Tara*.

- (b) What is the significance of the deformed Daksha in Dattani's play?

Or

"Two lives and one body, in one comfortable womb ..."
Explain.

(c) Comment on Dolly's demonstration of Daksha's dancing.

Or

What role does the grandfather play in *Tara*?

Option-II

(American Literature)

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

(a) (i) How does Huck react to different experiences of his life?

Or

(ii) Critically assess *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a picaresque novel.

(b) (i) Critically examine *The Great Gatsby* as a devastating depiction of the shallowness of the "Jazz Age".

Or

(ii) Write a short note on the role of the narrator in *The Great Gatsby*.

(c) (i) Comment on Steinbeck's portrayal of contemporary society in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Or

(ii) Critically comment on the narrative technique of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

(d) (i) Comment on Harper Lee's art of characterization with reference to her use of language in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Or

(ii) Give a description of Robinson's trial in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and point out its significance.

(e) (i) How does the death of Celie's mother change Celie's relationship with her family, with herself, and with God in *The Color Purple*?

Or

(ii) How does Alice Walker portray the black society in the novel, *The Color Purple*?

3. Answer briefly any *two* of the following from any *one* group 5×2 = 10
of your choice:

Group-I

- (a) Write a short note on Hamlet's soliloquy with reference to Chapter 21 of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- (b) How did Pap get hold of Huck?
- (c) How were the Duke and the King caught and what happened to them at the end?

Group-II

- (d) How did Myrtle describe her marriage with Wilson?
- (e) What function did Jordan Baker discharge in *The Great Gatsby*?
- (f) Gatsby's devotion for Daisy was for an ideal rather than an actual person. Do you agree?

Group-III

- (g) How did the Joads spend their time in Woodpatch camp?
- (h) Comment on the ending of *The Grapes of Wrath*.
- (i) What role does Ma Joad play in holding the family together?

Group-IV

- (j) 'Atticus, he was real nice'. What was Atticus's reaction to this?
- (k) What was the children's idea of the gifts which they had got from an unknown source?
- (l) Discuss the author's description of the Maycomb town in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Group-V

- (m) Comment on the symbol of God in *The Color Purple*.
- (n) '...whole cities were destroyed by slave catching wars.' Locate the context and explain.
- (o) How do Nettie's letters differ from those of Celie's?
4. Answer any *one* of the following: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Has Hawthorne shown the role of fate in 'The Ambitious Guest'? Elucidate your answer with reference to the text.
- (b) Comment on the dramatic quality of Poe's story- 'The Cask of Amontillado'.
- (c) How did Trysdale review his courtship with his friend's sister?
- (d) Analyze the psychological state of the White family in different situations.
- (e) Justify the title of Kate Chopin's story in your syllabus.
- (f) Willa Cather's story unfolds a romantic love story. Elucidate.
5. Answer any *two* of the following: 5×2 = 10
- (a) "The secret of the young man's character was, a high and abstracted ambition. He could have borne to live an undistinguished life, but not to be forgotten in the grave." – Locate and explain.
- (b) "A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong." – Explain with reference to a short story prescribed for your study.
- (c) Describe after O. Henry the consequence of the following: 'I will send you my answer to-morrow,' she said; and he, the indulgent, confident victor, smilingly granted the delay."

- (d) "He put a spell on it so that three separate men could each have three wishes from it." – Locate and explain.
- (e) "The excitement was all over, and they were gone. How still it was when they were gone! Mamzelle Aurélie stood upon the gallery, looking and listening." What are "these things"? Why does she no longer complain?
- (f) "I can still remember that first glance at Mrs. Ebbing, and how I stopped as a wheel does when the band slips." Draw a pen picture of Mrs. Ebbing.
6. Answer any *one* of the following: 10×1 = 10
- (a) Show how the imagery of 'Desert Places' amply reflect the theme of the poem.
- (b) How the concept of the river is unfolded in 'The Negro Speaks of River'?
- (c) Analyze 'somewhere i have never travelled..' as a love poem.
7. Explain and annotate any *two* of the following: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face!
Clouds of the west—sun there half an hour high—I see you also face to face.
- (b) Since then 'tis centuries; but each
Feels shorter than the day
I first surmised the horses' heads
Were toward eternity.
- (c) They cannot scare me with their empty spaces
Between stars on stars where no human race is.
- (d) (I do not know what it is about you that closes
and opens; only something in me understands
the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses)

- (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: $10 \times 1 = 10$

- (a) (i) Write a note on the imagery and symbols in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Or

- (ii) Comment on the portrayal of the Tom-Amanda relationship in *The Glass Menagerie*.

- (b) (i) How does the play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* move round the idea of an imaginary child?

Or

- (ii) Comment on the structural techniques used by Albee in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*.

9. Answer any *two* of the following: $5 \times 2 = 10$

- (a) (i) How does Tom describe the historical time of the play?

Or

- (ii) How do all the four characters in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* take part in a game?

- (b) (i) What is the significance of the name 'Blue Roses'?

Or

- (ii) What happened on 'the grandest day' of George's youth?

- (c) (i) "I am more faithful than I intended to be!". Who says this and why?

Or

- (ii) How are George and Martha reconciled at the end?