

B.A. 2nd Semester (Honours) Examination, 2019 (CBCS)

Subject: English

Paper: CC-III

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

Answer all the questions.

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

2×10=20

- (a) How does Bim, in Anita Desai's *Clear Light of Day*, react to her sister's problems at school?
- (b) What does Tara, in Anita Desai's *Clear Light of Day*, say she wants to be when she grows up?
- (c) Why does Aunt Mira, in Anita Desai's *Clear Light of Day*, ask the children's parents for a cow?
- (d) "... when first/He knew that he was free!"—
What were the reactions when he knew that he was free?
- (e) What does the poet mean by the expression "The breath of heaven/Around him freshly blew"?
- (f) What natural elements does the poet compare freedom with in 'Freedom to the Slave'?
- (g) How does the poet define the dimensions of her linguistic identity in 'An Introduction'?
- (h) "It is as human as I am human"—
What is referred to as 'human'? Why is it as 'human' as the poet?
- (i) 'Be Amy, or be Kamala. Or, better/Still, be Madhavikutty'— Briefly bring out the connotations of identity lying beneath the three names used by the poet in the lines quoted here.
- (j) What does the scorpion symbolise in the poem 'Night of the Scorpion'?
- (k) Explain how "giant scorpion shadows" were created 'on the mud-baked walls'.
- (l) What is revealed about the character of the poet's mother from her words in the last few lines of the poem?
- (m) What does the poet mean by "Now these hills/have grown on me"?
- (n) "Must you end toiling forever?"— Describe briefly, after the poet, the daily toil of his mother.
- (o) What does the expression 'Palem Apokpi' mean in Robin S. Ngangom's 'A Poem for Mother'?
- (p) How does the poet, in 'Night of the Scorpion', describe the crowd that had gathered in the house?

2. Answer any four of the following questions:

5×4=20

- (a) Comment briefly on the role of the character of Sridhar in *Bravely Fought the Queen*.
- (b) How does the first discussion the sisters have show how different they are from each other in Desai's *Clear Light of Day*?
- (c) Discuss briefly, after the poet, the role of the 'patriot sword' in bringing freedom to the slave.
- (d) "I too call myself I"— Why does the poet reach this conclusion?
- (e) Briefly comment on what the peasants that "came like swarms of flies" said about the incident of the scorpion bite.
- (f) Briefly comment on the life of a woman in the North-East Indian hills as described by the poet in 'A poem for Mother'.

3. Answer any two of the following questions:

10×2=20

- (a) Comment on the nature of the readership of *Govinda Samanta or the History of Bengal Rayat* as revealed from the author's address to his readers in the opening chapter.

Or,

Discuss *Govinda Samanta or the History of Bengal Rayat* as a narrative of Bengal peasant life.

- (b) Discuss the portrayal of adolescent characters in *Clear Light of Day*.

Or,

Critically discuss the dominant images and symbols in *Clear Light of Day*.

- (c) Discuss the representation of rural life in 'Night of the Scorpion'.

Or,

Critically discuss 'Night of the Scorpion' as a poem that represents quintessentially Indian attitudes.

- (d) In *Bravely Fought the Queen* society is represented through a single family. Discuss.

Or,

Discuss the elements of irony in *Bravely Fought the Queen*.