

B.A. 6th Semester (General) Examination, 2023 (CBCS)

Subject : English

Course : DSE-1B/2B

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.*

1. Answer any ten questions:

2×10=20

- (a) Mention the original title of the play *Silence! The Court is in Session* and also the language in which it was composed.
- (b) What was the full name of Samant? Which book was Samant reading from at the trial?
- (c) Who drags Benare back to the witness-box when the latch of the door gets locked?
- (d) Who acts as the prosecuting counsel as well as the counsel for the accused in the mock trial of Benare?
- (e) What was the original performance planned by the group in *Silence! The Court is in Session* and why did they not stick to it?
- (f) How does Benare introduce Rokde to Samant?
- (g) What according to the poet persona in Amrita Pritam's "A Story of Fire" is the fate of her love?
- (h) Why did it take the poet persona "fourteen years" to overcome the sense of entrapment in a loveless marriage?
- (i) What does the 'sky' symbolise in Amrita Pritam's "Bread of Dreams"?
- (j) Mention two ways in which the dreams were slaughtered in "Bread of Dreams".
- (k) Why was Mrinal compelled to compose poems in secret for fifteen years in "The Wife's Letter"?
- (l) What arrangements were made by Mrinal's in-laws to get rid of Bindu?
- (m) Was Sharat able to convince Bindu to accompany Mrinal to Puri?
- (n) Describe the difficulties faced by the groom's uncle and friend the day they visited Mrinal to inspect her as the prospective bride.
- (o) After declaring the death of the second daughter-in-law, how does Mrinal plan to live?

2. Answer any four questions:

5×4=20

- (a) How does Tagore highlight rural poverty and women's deprivation through the character of Bindu in "The Wife's Letter"?
- (b) Describe Mrinal as an epitome of Tagore's idea of an intellectual, self-determined woman.
- (c) Examine the appropriateness of the title of the play *Silence! The Court is in Session*.
- (d) Comment briefly on how Mr. Kashikar enables female subjugation in a patriarchal social structure in *Silence! The Court is in Session*.
- (e) How does Amrita Pritam's "Bread of Dreams" project both the horror of Partition and infringements of the rights women?
- (f) Show how Amrita Pritam uses intensely personal images in "A Story of Fire" to portray constraints on women and their urge to free themselves.

3. Answer any two of the following questions:

10×2=20

- (a) Show how "The Wife's Letter" posits a direct challenge to the social institution of marriage.
 - (b) Give a character sketch of Senanayek as you find in "Draupadi".
 - (c) Assess Amrita Pritam's "A Story of Fire" as her creative rejection of an assertive patriarchal society.
 - (d) Show how Tendulkar's play *Silence! The Court is in Session* ruptures the facade of emancipation and liberalism projected by individuals of the so-called progressive Indian society.
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