

**WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY**

B.A. Honours Part-III Examination, 2021

**ENGLISH****PAPER: ENGA-VIII**

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*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-I (Indian Writing in English) and Option-II (American Literature).**

The candidates should clearly mention the correct option on their respective answer scripts  
**Indian Writing in English OR American Literature.**

1. Answer any **two** questions from the following in brief: 5×2 = 10
- Define the terms 'Signifier' and 'Signified'.
  - Explain the difference between Modernism and Post-modernism.
  - Write a note on the relationship between 'Base' and 'Superstructure'.
  - What is meant by 'gynocriticism'?
  - Define the terms 'centre' and 'margin'.
  - What is 'mimicry' as defined by Post-Colonial criticism?

**OPTION-I****(Indian Writing in English)****GROUP-A****Answer any two questions from the following****15×2 = 30**

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- Critically comment on the symbols and images used by Jayanta Mahapatra in his poem *Hunger*.
  - Discuss how Sarojini Naidu's poem *Caprice* explores the themes of abandonment and desertion.
  - Discuss the theme of futility in Kamala Das' poem *Love*.
  - What is the significance of journey in Nissim Ezekiel's poem *Enterprise*?
3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- Analyse why the marriage between Ramaswamy and Madeleine fall apart in Raja Rao's novel *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - Comment on the title of Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - Discuss *The Shadow Lines* as a partition novel.
  - Analyse the role of memory in Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Shadow Lines*.

4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) How does Mulk Raj Anand depict child psychology in *The Lost Child*?
  - (b) Discuss the title of the short story *A Horse and Two Goats*.
  - (c) Is *The Accompanist* by Anita Desai an allegory? Give reasons for your answer.
  - (d) How does Salman Rushdie's *Chekov and Zulu* deal with the pervading effect of the Western culture on Eastern people?
5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) Critically analyse the relationship between the siblings Tara and Chandan in Mahesh Dattani's play *Tara*.
  - (b) Show how Dattani uses stagecraft to depict variations in time and space in *Tara*.
  - (c) Analyse the character of Yassin in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.
  - (d) Discuss the significance of the title in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.

### GROUP-B

Answer any **two** questions from the following

5×2 = 10

6. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1=5
- (a) And Flora gave the lotus, "rose red" dyed,  
And "lily-white"—the queenliest flower that blows.
  - (b) You know the earth contains  
You murmur in my ear  
This is pure transport.
  - (c) We noticed nothing as we went,  
A straggling crowd of little hope,  
Ignoring what the thunder meant.
  - (d) The mighty perish in their might,  
The stain survive the slayer.
7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1=5
- (a) Discuss in brief Raja Rao's treatment of illusion and reality in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - (b) Briefly analyse the character of Savithri in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - (c) Comment briefly on the character of Thamma in *The Shadow Lines*.
  - (d) Briefly comment on the narrator's relation with his cousin in *The Shadow Lines*.
8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1=5
- (a) Comment briefly on the ending of 'The Lost Child.'
  - (b) Briefly bring out the character of the American Businessman in 'A Horse and Two Goats'.
  - (c) Explain with reference to the context: "Does a mortal refuse God? It made me smile to think anyone could be such a fool."
  - (d) What is the significance of the nicknames of Chekov and Zulu?

9. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1=5
- (a) Explain with reference to the context: “Forgive me, Tara. Forgive me for making it my tragedy.”
  - (b) Briefly comment on the role of Dr. Thakkar in *Tara*.
  - (c) Explain with reference to the context: “You’re welcome. As friends and neighbours, you’re welcome.”
  - (d) Briefly analyse the role of Mita in Asif Currimbhoy’s *The Refugee*.

**OPTION-II**  
**(American Literature)**

**GROUP-A**

Answer any **two** questions from the following 15×2 = 30

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) Discuss Walt Whitman’s treatment of nature in “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry.”
  - (b) Analyse the poem ‘somewhere i never travelled’ by E.E. Cummings, focusing on the metaphors used throughout.
  - (c) Show how Emily Dickinson presents Death in her poem, ‘Because I could not stop for Death.’
  - (d) Critically appreciate Sylvia Plath’s poem, ‘Mirror’.
3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) Comment on the significance and appropriateness of the title *The Great Gatsby*.
  - (b) What is the role played by Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*? How do his qualities as a character affect his narration?
  - (c) How does Alice Walker portray human relationships in *The Color Purple*?
  - (d) Critically analyse *The Color Purple* as an epistolary novel.
4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) How does Hawthorne show in his story, ‘*The Ambitious Guest*’, the futility of human aspirations?
  - (b) Write a brief note on Montresor’s character in ‘*The Cask of Amontillado*’.
  - (c) Critically analyse of O’ Henry’s normative technique in ‘*The Cactus*’.
  - (d) How appropriate is the title of Kate Chopin’s story, ‘Regret’? Answer with close reference to the text.
5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1=15
- (a) How has Arthur Miller portrayed the character of Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman*?
  - (b) Critically analyse *Death of a Salesman* as a modern tragedy.

**GROUP-B**

**Answer any two questions from the following**

5×2 = 10

6. Explain and annotate any **one** from the following: 5×1=5
- (a) And lonely as it is, that loneliness  
Will be more lonely ere it will be less—
  - (b) Whatever I see I swallow immediately  
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
  - (c) I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to  
New Orleans, and I've seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.
7. Answer briefly any **one** question from the following: 5×1=5
- (a) What rumours have been told about Gatsby? Why does Fitzgerald use rumours rather than facts?
  - (b) Comment on Fitzgerald's depiction of the 'valley of ashes' in *The Great Gatsby*.
  - (c) Narrate the circumstances leading Celie to start her own business.
  - (d) In *The Color Purple*, why does Celie say that God 'must be sleep'? What does she mean?
8. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1=5
- (a) 'For the half of a century no mortal has disturbed them. In pace requiescat!' Locate and annotate.
  - (b) What is the huge mistake made by Trysdale in 'The Cactus'? When does he realize it?
  - (c) 'She cried like a man, with sobs that seemed to tear her very soul'. Locate and explain.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1=5
- (a) Explain: 'Nothing is planted. I don't have a thing in the ground'.
  - (b) 'A salesman is got to dream, boy, it comes with the territory.' Explain.

**N.B. :** Students have to complete submission of their Answer Scripts through E-mail / Whatsapp to their own respective colleges on the same day / date of examination within 1 hour after end of exam. University / College authorities will not be held responsible for wrong submission (at in proper address). Students are strongly advised not to submit multiple copies of the same answer script.

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