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M.A. (Final) EXAMINATION, 2018

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper IX (B)

(Post-Colonial Literature)

Time allowed: Three hours

Maximum marks: 100

The paper will contain ten questions having two questions from each unit. The candidates are required to attempt five questions in all selecting at least one question from each unit. Question no. one is compulsory.

The prescribed poems are from the following two Anthologies

- (i) *An anthologies of Commonwealth poetry (Macmillan).*
- (ii) *Ten Twentieth Century Indian Poets ed. R. Parthasarthy (O. U.P.)*

Unit-I

1. Explain with reference to context any four of the following extracts:5×4

(a) Outside, the sun has risen quietly.

It aims through an eyelet in the tarpaulin
and shoots at the old man's glasses.

(b) On New Year's Eve he heard an old man
at Trafalgar square, 'It's no use trying
to change people. They'll be what they are
An empire's last words are heard
on the hot sands of Africa

The do Games, Clives, Dupleixs are back.

(c) Who speaks of pleasure? O women, listen!
Pleasure palls. Our acts should have meaning.
The sap of the plantain never dries.

You have seen the young shoot swelling.

Even as the parent stalk begins to wither.

Women, let my going be likened to

The twilight hour of the plantain.

(d) My father said, "you see those half-burnt fingers
and bone-stubs? The fire at times forgets its dead!"

A Zoroastrian I, my child-fingers clenched
into a little knot of pain,

I swore to save fire
from the sin of forgetfulness.

(e) The eyeless labourer in the night,
the selfless, shapeless seed I hold,
builds for its resurrection day-
silent and swift and deep from sight
foresees the unimagined light.

- (f) Before the moon, <https://universitynews.in/> rings her bell on strained wire. A wrangling dry tintinnation tells me she's through, and struggling onto her hooves. She will never pierce the greater grid she has conjured.

Unit-II

2. Write critical notes in about 200-250 words each on any two of the following: 2×10
- (a) Cross cultural reflections and the loss of identity in R. Parthasarthy's poems (prescribed in your syllabus)
 - (b) Gayatri Spivak's views on the female subalterns in the colonial cultures.
 - (c) Anm Kolatkar's poem 'An Old Woman'.
 - (d) Foregrounding in Edwin Thumboo's "Gods can die".

Or

3. The story of Saleem in "Midnight's Children" is the story of India itself. Discuss Salman Rushdie's novel from the point of view of Saleem's story. 20

Unit-III

4. (a) Critically analyse Keki N. Daruwalla's poem 'The Ghaghra in Spate'. 10
- (b) Write a note on the themes of alienation, cultural loss and nostalgia in Rohinton Mistry's "Tales from Firozshah Baag." 10

Or

5. How does E.M. Forster deal with the imperial question in his novel "A Passage to India." Comment and discuss. 20

Unit-IV

6. Write a critical appreciation of any one of the following poems:
- (i) The Commonwealth of Manu
 - (ii) Sanskrit
 - (iii) Bullocky 20

Or

7. Discuss V. S. Naipaul as an author of cross-cultural identity in the context of his novel "A House for Mr. Biswas". 20

Unit-V

8. Critically comment on Margaret Atwood's poem "Journey to the Interior" as a metaphysical poem with its journey motif at the centre. 20

Or

9. "Things fall apart" is about African society, written from the point of view of the Igbo, and tends to extinguish the misconception that African culture is savage and primitive. Evaluate Achebe's novel in the light of this statement. 20

Or

10. Discuss Wole Soyinka as an African Writer who touches upon traditional myth and modern sensibility simultaneously in his play "Death and the King's Norsemen". 20