

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG-HE 3

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ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-5036

(Literature of the Indian Diaspora)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer any ten of the following questions :

1×10=10

(a) What is the name of the retired school teacher in *The Book of Secrets*?

(b) When was M. G. Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets* published?

(c) Where do the places Dar es Salaam, Kikono, Moshi and Tanga appear?

(2)

- (d) Who is Anita's mother in *Anita and Me*?
- (e) Name the caste of Ishwar and Omprakash.
- (f) In which novel do these lines occur?
"And so I would construct a history, a living tapestry to join the past to the present..."
- (g) Where is Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* set?
- (h) In which novel do the events move in Calcutta, Boston and New York city?
- (i) What was the story that Ashoke was reading before the accident happened?
- (j) Who is Nusswan Shroff in the novel, *A Fine Balance*?
- (k) Name the fictional village in which Meera Syal's *Anita and Me* is set.

(3)

- (l) Where do the following lines occur?
"A foreigner drew a magic line on a map and called it the new border; it became a river of blood upon the earth."
- (m) In which novel do we find the characters Sherrie and Fat Sally?
- (n) Whose diary do we find in *The Book of Secrets*?
- (o) Who is Ashraf Chacha?
- (p) Who is Meena's next door neighbour in *Anita and Me*?
- (q) Who is Maxine?
- (r) In which engineering institute did Ashoke study?
2. Answer any *five* of the following questions in very short : 2×5=10
- (a) Identify at least two themes in the novel, *The Namesake*.

(4)

- (b) Write briefly about Maneck.
- (c) In a few lines describe Sam Lowbridge?
- (d) Describe Dina Dalal's home in *A Fine Balance*.
- (e) How is Hanning described in *The Book of Secrets*?
- (f) What was the reason for Maynard's estrangement from his family?
- (g) Mention at least two instances of Meena's lying.
- (h) What does Ashoke's death mean to Ashima in *The Namesake*?
- (i) Briefly comment on Meena's neighbours.
- (j) How did Alfred Corbin spend his childhood days?

(5)

3. Write short notes on any four of the following : 5×4=20

- (a) Community life in Tollington
- (b) Anita-Meena relationship
- (c) The old diary in *The Book of Secrets*
- (d) Dina's story in *A Fine Balance*
- (e) The Asian-African experience in *The Book of Secrets*
- (f) Gogol's childhood in *The Namesake*
- (g) Significance of the title *The Book of Secrets*
- (h) Naming in *The Namesake*

4. Answer any four of the following questions : 10×4=40

- (a) Write a note on the representation of history and memory in *The Book of Secrets*.

(6)

- (b) How important is the city in the novel, *A Fine Balance*? Referring to specific passages in the novel, bring out its significance.
- (c) How does Meena grapple with identity issues in *Anita and Me*? Give a well-reasoned answer.
- (d) Located as he is in between two worlds, two cultures, how does Gogol negotiate his identity in *The Namesake*?
- (e) Critically discuss the Meena-Sam Lowbridge relationship in *Anita and Me*.
- (f) Discuss some of the pertinent concerns of the diaspora that Jhumpa Lahiri addresses in *The Namesake*. Cite instances from the novel to develop your argument.
- (g) From your reading of *The Book of Secrets*, discuss some of the immigrant experiences as reflected in the narrative.
- (h) Critically comment on Rohinton Mistry's choice of *A Fine Balance* as the title of his novel.

(7)

- (i) What role does history play in the novel, *Anita and Me*?
- (j) Discuss Ashima's feeling of alienation in the United States.
