

B.A. 5th Semester (Honours) Examination, 2019 (CBCS)

Subject : English

Paper : DSE-2

(Partition Literature)

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 of the following questions:

2×10=20

- (a) In which year was the novel, *The Shadow Lines*, published? In which year did it receive the Sahitya Akademi Award?
- (b) When, and where, was Tha'mma born?
- (c) What was the narrator's first impression of Ila as a grown up woman?
- (d) Explain the significance of the Victoria Memorial as 'our ruin' as referred to by Tridib.
- (e) How did Tridib die?
- (f) Briefly comment on the character of Jethamoshai.
- (g) Comment on the farewell ceremony which the school arranged on Tha'mma's last working day.
- (h) When did Tridib and May first start exchanging letters and under what circumstances?
- (i) Comment on the Character of Pramatha.
- (j) Comment on how the character of Bhushan stays on the margin.
- (k) Why did Alam stay back with Anantashekhar's family?
- (l) Why were the lunatics in Manto's "Toba Tek Singh" put in the asylum in the first place?
- (m) Comment on the reaction of the Anglo-Indian lunatics on the occasion of Indian independence.
- (n) Jyoti's "belly remains big even though she hasn't had food for four days." — Explain.
- (o) "Certain lands are meant for certain roots only." — Critically comment.

2. Answer any four of the following questions:

5×4=20

- (a) What does Ila mean when she says that she wants to be 'free'? What is the difference between her perception of freedom and Tha'mma's perception of freedom? 2+3=5
- (b) What is the significance of the 'Upside-Down House' in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (c) Comment on the sub-continental partition as the cause of conflicted identities in Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
- (d) Comment on Manik Bandopadhyay's depiction of Kolkata as a city in "The Final Solution".
- (e) Comment on Manto's choice of a lunatic as the protagonist of *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (f) What role does 'nostalgia' play in Palit's story, "Alam's Own House"?

3. Answer any two of the following questions:

10×2=20

- (a) Comment on the title of Khushwant Singh's narrative *Train to Pakistan*.
- (b) Analyse the role of women in Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*.
- (c) Compare the characters of the narrator and Ila while reflecting on their respective understanding of borders and countries in Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
- (d) Critically analyse the theme of partition in Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.

Or,

Comment on the importance of the Parsi perception of independence, as depicted in Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-Candy Man*.
