

FOURTH SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, MARCH 2020

(CUCSS)

English

EN-4E 21—INDIAN ENGLISH FICTION

Time : Three Hours

Maximum : 36 Weightage

I. Answer *all* the following questions, each in a word, phrase or sentence :

- 1 Who is the narrator in the *Cat and Shakespeare* ?
- 2 Who is Bilasia ?
- 3 At what age does Saleem decide to marry Padma ?
- 4 How does Nishi in *A Dream in Hawaii* look upon the western life ?
- 5 What is Rajam's father ?
- 6 What do you know about the third baby of Jaya and Mohan ?
- 7 How does Nathan die ?
- 8 Why is the narrator in the *Shadow Lines* obliged to Tridib ?

(8 × ½ = 4 weightage)

II. Write a *paragraph*, each of about 150 words, on any *six* of the following questions :

- 9 How does R.K. Narayan depict Malgudi in the *Swami and Friends* ?
- 10 Examine the title of the novel, *Cat and Shakespeare*.
- 11 Explain the circumstances that lead Mohan to leave his home.
- 12 What is the role played by Parvati-the-witch ?
- 13 Analyse briefly the symbolic characters and situations in the *Nectar in a Sieve*.
- 14 Under what circumstances does Munoo face death ?
- 15 Describe the Dhaka episode in the *Shadow Lines*.
- 16 Compare and contrast Nishi and Devjani.
- 17 Give an account of Billy's experiences in Madhya Pradesh.
- 18 Explain the significance of the title, *Cry, the Peacock*.

(6 × 2 = 12 weightage)

Turn over

- III. Write essays of about 450 words, on any four of the following questions, choosing one from each section :

Section A

- 19 Assess the role of women characters in the *Nectar in a Sieve*.
- 20 *Cry, the Peacock* is an experiment on the working of the human psyche. Elucidate this view.
- 21 Evaluate the suitability of the title, *That Long Silence*.

Section B

- 22 How far do you agree with the view that *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* is the psychodrama of an alienated hero ?
- 23 Bring out the elements of humour and irony in the *Swami and Friends*.
- 24 Evaluate the *Cat and Shakespeare* as a metaphysical comedy.

Section C

- 25 *The Shadow Lines* is characterised as a memory novel. Examine the veracity of this statement.
- 26 "Despite its abundance of irony and satire, *Midnight's Children* is an elegy for the vision of a secular and democratic India most closely identified with Nehru." Do you agree ? Why ?
- 27 How does Mulk Raj Anand depict through his novel, *Coolie*, that poverty is as bad as casteism ?

Section D

- 28 How do Salman Rushdie and Rohinton Mistry reflect the post-independent Indian social set-up in their novels, meant for your study ?
- 29 *Such a Long Journey* is the record of a long journey of a moral heart in a turbulent world of change-Comment.
- 30 How does Bhabhani Bhattacharya picture the East-West conflict in *A Dream in Haze* ?

(4 × 5 = 20 marks)