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6 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 3 (H/NH)

2025

(May)

ENGLISH

(Discipline Specific Elective)

(For Honours and Non-Honours)

Paper : DSE-3

(**Partition Literature**)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 15

- (a) Examine the role of memory and nostalgia in *Basti*. How does Zakir's recollection of the past shape the narrative structure and themes of the novel?

(2)

- (b) Discuss the use of allegory and symbolism in *Basti*. How does Intizar Hussain use these literary devices to reflect on the trauma of Partition and national identity?
- (c) Analyze the portrayal of communal harmony and its disintegration in *Basti*. How does the novel comment on the socio-political realities of post-Partition South Asia?
2. Write a short note on any one of the following : 5
- (a) Significance of the town of Rupnagar in *Basti*
- (b) The use of myth and history in *Basti*
- (c) Portrayal of communal violence in *Basti*
3. Answer any one of the following questions : 15
- (a) Discuss the role of memory and imagination in shaping the narrative structure of *The Shadow Lines*. How do they influence the narrator's perception of history and identity?

(3)

- (b) Examine the concept of national boundaries in *The Shadow Lines*. How does Ghosh critique the artificiality and violence of borders through the events and characters in the novel?
- (c) Analyze the character of Tridib in *The Shadow Lines*. In what ways does he function as a symbolic figure in the narrator's coming of age and understanding of the world?
4. Write a short note on any one of the following : 5
- (a) The role of May Price in *The Shadow Lines* and her impact on the narrator
- (b) The role of the city of Dhaka in the exploration of Partition and memory in *The Shadow Lines*
- (c) The problematization of the concept of home in *The Shadow Lines*

5. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

- (a) Examine the theme of alienation in Dibyendu Palit's *Alam's Own House*. How does the narrative portray the disconnection between the protagonist and his familial or social environment?
- (b) How does Manik Bandopadhyay critique the socio-economic system through the character of Ram Kanta in *The Final Solution*? Discuss with reference to the story's symbolism and tone.
- (c) Examine the narrative technique and use of irony in *Toba Tek Singh*. How does Manto use satire and dark humor to critique the absurdity of Partition?
- (d) Analyze the use of natural imagery and symbolism in Lalithambika Antharjanam's *A Leaf in the Storm*. How does the author use these elements to deepen the narrative's emotional impact?

6. Write a short note on any one of the following : 5

- (a) The significance of the ending of Dibyendu Palit's *Alam's Own House*
- (b) Portrayal of mental illness in Manik Bandopadhyay's *The Final Solution*
- (c) The role of humour in the depiction of madness in *Toba Tek Singh*
- (d) The character of Ammini in Lalithambika Antharjanam's *A Leaf in the Storm*

7. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

- (a) Examine the political undertones in Faiz Ahmad Faiz's poem, *For Your Lanes, My Country*. How does the poet critique oppressive regimes while expressing unwavering devotion to the nation?
- (b) Analyze the theme of death and rebirth in Jibanananda Das's poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal*. How does the poet present his desire for a metaphysical return to Bengal, and what does this suggest about his relationship with his homeland?

- (c) How does Gulzar use the figure of Toba Tek Singh to critique the Partition of India in his poem, *Toba Tek Singh*? Analyze the poem in the light of memory, madness, and the trauma of displacement.

8. Explain, with reference to the context, any one of the following :

5

- (a) In any case,

I live in imagined days and nights,
I exist in the shadow of the prison walls.
This is how people fight oppression,
their ritual isn't new, nor are my ways new.

- (b) A little child toss rice-grains on the
courtyard grass,
Or a boy on the Rupsa's turgid stream
steer a dinghy
With torn white sail—white egrets
swimming through red clouds
To their home in the dark. You will find
me among their crowd.

- (c) When will he move down that branch
He is to be told :
"There are some more—left still
Who are being divided, made into pieces—
There are some more Partitions to be done
That Partition was only the first one."
