



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A. Honours Part-III Examination, 2019

ENGLISH

PAPER-ENGA-VIII

Time Allotted: 4 Hours

Full Marks: 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.*

Candidates are required to answer Question No.1 compulsorily and choose one Option from Option-I (Indian Writing in English) and Option-II (American Literature).

The candidates should clearly mention the correct option on their respective answer scripts
Indian Writing in English OR American Literature.

1. Answer any **four** questions from the following: 5×4 = 20
- Write a brief note on 'Orientalism' as applied in Postcolonial criticism.
 - What is 'Ecriture Feminine'?
 - Define the terms 'Langue' and 'Parole'.
 - What does Marx mean by 'Class Struggle'?
 - What are the basic tenets of Postmodernism?
 - Explain the notion of 'hegemony' after Gramsci.

**OPTION-I
(Indian Writing in English)**

GROUP-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- Consider *Kali the Mother* as a divine poem of Swami Vivekananda.
 - Sri Aurobindo's poem '*The Tiger and the Deer*' is a contrast between good and evil, innocence and experience, life and death. Discuss.
 - How does Meena Alexander record the various stages of an artist's mind in her poem *Muse*? Discuss with illustration from the text.
 - Analyze Toru Dutt's *Lotus* as a nature poem.

GROUP-B

3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- Comment on the use of themes, motifs and symbols in Raja Rao's *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - Discuss *The Serpent and the Rope* as a novel that deals with concepts of existence, reality and fulfillment of one's capabilities.

- (c) Comment on the narrative technique in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (d) Discuss Amitav Ghosh's treatment of the family as a social microcosm in *The Shadow Lines*.

GROUP-C

4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) 'The Lost Child' depicts the "child's classic confrontational relationship with his world without parents". Discuss.
 - (b) How does Anita Desai bring out the inner conflict of the protagonist in *The Accompanist*?
 - (c) How does Salman Rushdie's *Chekov and Zulu* bring out the political reality of post independent India?
 - (d) Evaluate *A Horse and Two Goats* as a typical Indian short story.

GROUP-D

5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment critically on the title *Tara*.
 - (b) Comment on the role of Bharati in defining the life of Tara.
 - (c) Critically analyze the character of Sen Gupta in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.
 - (d) Discuss Currimbhoy's *The Refugee* as a play that deals with the refugee crisis of 1971.

GROUP-E

6. Locate and annotate any **one** from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) You murmured the word, sliding it on your tongue,
Trying to get how a girl could turn
Into a molten thing and not burn.
 - (b) You held a wine-cup in your fingertips,
Lightly you raised it to indifferent lips,
Lightly you drank and flung away the bowl
Alas! It was my soul.
 - (c) Where is room, excuse or even
Need for love, for isn't each
Embrace a complete thing, a finished
Jigsaw
 - (d) But a day may yet come when the tiger
crouches and leaps no more in the dangerous heart of the forest,
As the mammoth shakes no more the plains of Asia.
7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Briefly describe how Brahminism is represented in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
 - (b) Comment briefly on the title of *The Serpent and the Rope*.

- (c) Comment briefly on the role of Ila in *The Shadow Lines*.
(d) What role does the riot play in the life of the narrator in *The Shadow Lines*?
8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
(a) Comment on the stranger who tried to soothe the child in *The Lost Child*.
(b) Briefly describe the childhood days of the accompanist.
(c) What is the influence of the TV serial 'Star Trek' in the short story *Chekov and Zulu*?
(d) Comment briefly on the appropriateness of the title *A Horse and Two Goats*.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
(a) Comment on the role of music in *Tara*.
(b) What role does Roopa play in *Tara*?
(c) How does the one act structure enhance the dramatic appeal of *The Refugee*?
(d) Comment on the roles of Yassin and Ramul in *The Refugee*.

OPTION-II
(American Literature)
GROUP-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
(a) Attempt a critical appreciation of the form and imagery of Emily Dickinson's poem 'Because I could not stop for Death'.
(b) Comment on Walt Whitman's descriptive power with reference to the poem, 'Crossing Brooklyn Ferry'.
(c) Analyse the symbols and imagery in Robert Frost's 'Desert Places'.
(d) Critically comment on the images in Bob Dylan's 'How many roads must a man walk down'.
3. Explain and annotate any **one** from the following: 5×1 = 5
(a) We use you, and do not cast you aside —
we plant you permanently within us.
(b) or if your wish be to close me, i and
my life will shut very beautifully, suddenly,
as when the heart of this flower imagines
(c) Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me.
Searching my reaches for what she really is.

GROUP-B

4. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
(a) *The Great Gatsby* is a consummate summary of the 'roaring twenties' and a devastating depiction of the shallowness of the 'Jazz Age'. Critically examine Fitzgerald's novel in the light of this view.
(b) Critically analyse the symbols in *The Great Gatsby*.

- (c) How has Alice Walker portrayed the Southern Black community in *The Color Purple*?
- (d) Critically analyse the portrayal of women characters in *The Color Purple*.

5. Answer briefly any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) What, according to Daisy, are the requirements for a woman to be happy? What led her to such a conclusion?
- (b) 'Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us.' — Explain the significance of the comment.
- (c) Describe the changes that are brought about in *Celie* by Shug Avery.
- (d) 'Millions and millions of Africans were captured and sold into slavery'— Locate the context and explain.

GROUP-C

6. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on the role of fate in Hawthorne's 'The Ambitious Guest'.
- (b) What impression do you form of the character of Trysdale as depicted in 'The Cactus'?
- (c) Kate Chopin's 'Regret' develops the idea that Mamzelle Aurélie 'lacks that important part of a woman's life, the maternal relationship'. — Do you agree? Discuss the theme of motherhood.
- (d) How does Poe explore the theme of disguise in 'The Cask of Amontillado'?
7. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) 'The secret of the young man's character was, a high and abstracted ambition.'— Locate and explain.
- (b) Why does the narrator in 'The Cactus' pretend to know Spanish?
- (c) Describe in brief how the children disturbed Mamzelle Aurélie's household in 'Regret'.

GROUP-D

8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on Arthur Miller's use of naturalism and psychological realism in the theme and the portrayal of characters in *Death of a Salesman*.
- (b) *Death of a Salesman* presents Willy's blind faith in his stunted vision of the American Dream and his final disillusionment. Discuss.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) How does Happy react over Willy's grave?
- (b) At the end of the play Linda repeatedly says, 'We're free'. What is the significance of this comment?

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