

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG HE 1

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(Held in 2022)

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-5016

(**Popular Literature**)

(**Honours Elective**)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10

- (a) What is the nationality of Hercule Poirot?
- (b) What is the name of the house owned by Roger Ackroyd?
- (c) Who forgets to deliver Ambedkar's letter to his father telling him of their plan to visit?

(2)

Or

(For Visually Challenged Students)

When did Ambedkar write his autobiographical sketches compiled in *Autobiographical Notes*?

- (d) What was the colour of the White Rabbit's eyes?
- (e) Who is Dinah?
- (f) What is the name of Harry Potter's snowy owl?
- (g) "Everything is simple, if you arrange the facts methodically." Who says this and to whom?
- (h) Who is Hagrid?
- (i) "... [A]nd of course I knew you'd be just the same, just as strange, just as _ as _ abnormal" Who says this and about whom?
- (j) Why does the Queen of Hearts order the execution of Alice after their initial conversation?

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(Continued)

(3)

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to." Who says this and to whom and in what context?
- (b) What is Ambedkar's view on the attitudes of people belonging to various religions towards untouchability?

Or

(For Visually Challenged Students)

What, for Ambedkar, is the value of education in the face of social and political discrimination?

- (c) "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." Who says this and in what context?
- (d) What does the word 'Muggle' refer to and what characteristics is it associated with?
- (e) Who is Ralph Paton and why is he suspected to murdering Roger Ackroyd?

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(Turn Over)

(4)

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Write a short note on Roger Ackroyd in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.
- (b) Write a short note on the use of fantasy and nonsense in *Alice in Wonderland*.
- (c) How and to what end is the motif of blackmail used in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* ?
- (d) Write a short note on the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*.
- (e) Write a short note on the Dursleys in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.
- (f) Write a short note on the use of water as a motif/trope in *Bhimayana*.

Or

(For Visually Challenged Students)

What does Ambedkar say of the Mahar Community to which he belonged? Write a short critical note.

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(Continued)

(5)

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) Examine how the coming-of-age theme is explored in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, taking into account the differing contexts of the two texts.
- (b) Write a critical essay comparing the representation of the child's perspective in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.
- (c) How is the form of the graphic novel used to highlight the issue of untouchability in particular and the Dalit experience in general in *Bhimayana : Experiences of Untouchability* ? Discuss using relevant illustrations from the text.

Or

(For Visually Challenged Students)

How does Ambedkar chart his route towards an identity of his own through his experiences of untouchability? Discuss, using relevant instances from his *Autobiographical Notes*.

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(Turn Over)

(6)

- (d) Examine the intersections of caste and gender in *Bhimayana*, using examples from the text.

Or

(For Visually Challenged Students)

Discuss critically, the distinctive characteristics of Ambedkar's *Autobiographical Notes* that make this work a significant contribution to the genre of autobiography. Justify your answer with relevant illustrations from the text.

- (e) Critically examine Carroll's use of humour in *Alice in Wonderland*, taking into account the huge popularity enjoyed by the books among readers across generations.

- (f) Discuss the distinctive elements or characteristics of detective fiction using *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* as a representative example. Would you see this novel merely as 'popular literature'?

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(Continued)

(7)

- (g) What do you understand by the term 'popular literature'? Can it be distinguished from canonical literature? Give a considered response, using the texts prescribed in this paper.

- (h) Write a critical note on the use of the first-person point-of-view/the use of a first-person narrative in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

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3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG HE 1

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG HE 3

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(Held in 2022)

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-5036

(**Literature of the Indian Diaspora**)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10
- (a) In which of your prescribed novels, do you find the small town Kikono?
 - (b) In the novel, *The Book of Secrets* who stole Corbin's diary?
 - (c) In which year was *Anita and Me* published?
 - (d) Who is the 'Me' in the novel, *Anita and Me*?

(2)

- (e) In *The Namesake*, what was the pet name suggested by Ashoke for the baby?
- (f) Who is Dina Dalal?
- (g) In which of the prescribed novels, do you find the character Sam Lowbridge?
- (h) Who is Graham in the novel, *The Namesake*?
- (i) To which caste do Ishwar and Omprakash belong to?
- (j) What does Sonia get Gogol for his thirteenth birthday?
2. Write very short answers of the following questions : 2×5=10
- (a) Why was Ashima Ganguli not allowed to leave the hospital after her delivery?
- (b) How does Maneck react to the political turmoil in India after his return from Dubai?
- (c) Why was Pipa and Mariamu's marriage strained after their son's birth?
- (d) Why did Gogol resent his name?
- (e) Why does Meena secretly leave the house?

(3)

3. Write short notes on any four of the following : 5×4=20
- (a) The caste system in *A Fine Balance*
- (b) Quest for identity in *The Book of Secrets*
- (c) Meena's early memories in *Anita and Me*
- (d) The cultural tensions between Gogol and his family
- (e) Maneck's story
- (f) Albert Corbin
4. Answer any four of the following questions : 10×4=40
- (a) Discuss how Ashima negotiates her identity at different stages of her life, as a newly-wed bride, a young mother, a mother whose children have left home, and a widow.
- (b) Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* aptly exposes the rural/urban divide in the context of post-colonial India. Discuss.
- (c) Describe how Ashima in *The Namesake* reinvents herself after her experiences of geo-cultural dislocation.
- (d) Critically discuss some of the major themes Vassanji addresses in *The Book of Secrets*.

- (e) How does Meera Syal articulate the anxieties of the diaspora in *Anita and Me*? Write a well-thoughtout answer.
- (f) What purpose does the diary of Albert Corbin serve in the plot of *The Book of Secrets*? Give a well-reasoned answer.
- (g) Critically comment on Anita and Meena's relationship in *Anita and Me*.
- (h) Distancing herself from the political issues of the time Dina says :

"Government problems and games played by people in power ... doesn't affect ordinary people like us."

But in the end it does affect all of them drastically.

Discuss with reference to the lives of the characters in Mistry's *A Fine Balance* how the individual is affected by the larger socio-political changes in the public sphere.

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