



COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY

B.A. Programme 1st Semester Examinations, 2018

ENGLISH

THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY EDS

DSC (DSCENGG1)

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 40

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 **one** question from the following: 15×1 = 15
 - (a) Rabindranath Tagore's 'The Exercise Book' offers a sensitive exploration of women's lives and experiences in 19th century Bengal – Discuss.
 - (b) Comment on Omprakash Valmiki's 'Joothan' as a narrative of resistance against the oppression of the caste system.
 - (c) Discuss society's attitude towards cast differences as explored in Hira Barsode's 'Bosom Friend'.
 - (d) Can Marge Piercy's 'Breaking Out' be read as an expression of female agency? Explain with reference to the text.
 - (e) Examine society's attitude towards marriage as portrayed in Eunice De Souza's 'Marriages are Made'.
 - (f) Examine Ambai's 'Yellow Fish' as an exploration of loss and mourning.
 - (g) How does Wilfred Owen explore the horror of a young soldier's death in 'Dulce et Decorum est'?
 - (h) Sa'adat Hasan Manto's 'The Dog of Tetwal' explores the anxiety over identity and belonging created in the wake of the Partition of 1947. – Discuss.

2. Answer any **one** question from the following: 10×1 = 10
 - (a) Examine Tagore's 'The Exercise Book' as a condemnation of the suppression of female literacy.
 - (b) "Who is that teacher, that progeny of Dronacharya ..." Examine the significance of this statement in light of Valmiki's childhood experiences at his school.

- (c) Comment on the conflict between expectation and reality as portrayed in Hira Barsode's 'Bosom Friend' with reference to the title.
- (d) Examine the treatment of household chores in relation to the treatment of physical violence in Marge Piercy's 'Breaking Out'.
- (e) Comment on the thematic and stylistic significance of the image of 'that mouth' in Ambai's 'Yellow Fish'.
- (f) "The human body becomes an imprint of the horrors of war". Examine Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum est' in light of this statement.
- (g) Comment on the significance of the dog's death in 'The Dog of Tetwal'.

3. Answer any **one** question from the following:

5×1 = 5

- (a) What was the 'Subtel theory' evolved by Pyarimohan in Tagore's 'The Exercise Book'? How did it shape his attitude towards female literacy?
- (b) Examine the significance of the breaking of the 'ruler' in Marge Piercy's 'Breaking Out'.

4. Answer any **ten** questions from the following:

1×10 = 10

- (a) What was the 'Kathamala'?
- (b) In her in-laws house, who was the first to discover Uma in the midst of writing?
- (c) Name the pond mentioned in Valmiki's 'Joothan' which acted as a partition between the homes of the Chuhra and the rest of the village.
- (d) Who was Shabari?
- (e) Define the word 'Mangle'.
- (f) What was the 'tool of punishment' used on the speaker in Piercy's 'Breaking Out'?
- (g) What is the name of the groom in 'Marriages are Made'?
- (h) Name the narrator of Ambai's 'Yellow Fish'.
- (i) Explain the significance of the line 'Men marched asleep'.
- (j) Who was the youngest among the Hindustani soldiers in 'The Dog of Tetwal'?
- (k) What was used as fuel for cooking by the speaker's mother as described in 'Bosom Friend'.
- (l) What was the name given to the dog by the Hindustani soldiers?