



**WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY**

B.A. Honours Part-III Examination, 2020

**ENGLISH**

**PAPER-ENGA-VIII**

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*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 **two** questions from the following in brief: 5×2 = 10
- (a) Distinguish between 'Signifier' and 'Signified'.
  - (b) What are the basic tenets of 'Second Wave Feminism'? Name at least two major proponents.
  - (c) How would you distinguish post-modernism from modernism?
  - (d) Explain with suitable examples the terms 'centre' and 'margin'.
  - (e) Discuss in brief the nature and scope of Marxist literary criticism.
  - (f) What is Gynocriticism?

**OPTION-I**

**(Indian Writing in English)**

**GROUP-A**

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Kamala Das' treatment of the theme of futility in the poem *In Love*.
  - (b) What does the journey in *Enterprise* stand for?
  - (c) Comment on Jayanta Mahapatra's handling of pathos in *Hunger*.
  - (d) Discuss how Sarojini Naidu explores the theme abandonment and desertion in the poem *Caprice*.

**OR**

**GROUP-B**

3. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) How does Raja Rao treat the interrelationship of the orient and the occident in *The Serpent and the Rope*?
  - (b) Comment on the representation of Brahminism in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - (c) Critically analyse the character of Thamma in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
  - (d) Justify the appropriateness of the title of the novel *The Shadow Lines*.

**GROUP-C**

4. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Assess *The Lost Child* as a typical Indian short story.
  - (b) Bring out the complexities in the character of Muni in *A Horse and Two Goats*.
  - (c) How does Anita Desai represent the Indian classical music tradition in *The Accompanist*?
  - (d) Salman Rushdie's *Chekov and Zulu* has often been read as a commentary on the postcolonial Indian situation. Discuss.

**OR**

**GROUP-D**

5. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) How does Dattani reveal the sufferings of Tara?
  - (b) Comment on the interplay of past and present in *Tara*.
  - (c) "Currimbhoy becomes the voice of universal revolt". Analyse the statement with reference to his play *The Refugee*.
  - (d) Critically analyse the character of Yassin in Currimbhoy's *The Refugee*.

**GROUP-E**

6. Locate and annotate any **one** from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Who dares misery love,  
And hug the form of Death,  
Dance in Destruction's dance,  
To him the Mother comes.
  - (b) O what does the burning mouth  
Of sun, burning in today's,  
Sky, remind me....
  - (c) Her tumbled hair suddenly known  
as silk in my hand, I shook a little  
and took her behind the laws of my land.
  - (d) But then the differences arose  
On how to cross a desert patch,  
We lost a friend whose stylish prose  
Was quite the best of all our batch.  
A shadow falls on us – and grows.

**OR**

7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment briefly on the character of the 'Little Mother' in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - (b) Discuss briefly the theme of marriage as reflected in *The Serpent and the Rope*.
  - (c) Briefly comment on the narrator's relation with his cousin in *The Shadow Lines*.
  - (d) Comment on the representation of love in *The Shadow Lines*.
8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the reaction of the child at the end in Mulk Raj Anand's *The Lost Child*.

- (b) What is the business transaction that takes place between Muni and the American businessman in *A Horse and Two Goats*?
- (c) Explain with reference to the context: "Play for me."
- (d) Comment on the significance of the nicknames Chekov and Zulu.

OR

9. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the role of the grandfather in *Tara*.
  - (b) Explain with reference to the context: "Oh what a waste! A waste of money. Why spend all the money to keep me alive? It cannot matter whether I live or die".
  - (c) Analyse the role of Mita in *The Refugee*.
  - (d) Explain with reference to the context: "And they are growing in numbers all the time. We're calling an emergency meeting of the town elders. This can't go on. We'll seal the borders".

OPTION-II

(American Literature)

GROUP-A

2. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Discuss Whitman's treatment of Nature in *Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*.
  - (b) Analyse the form and content of e.e. cummings's *Somewhere I have never travelled*.
  - (c) Discuss Bob Dylan's *How many roads must a man walk down* as an anti-war poem and song of protest.
  - (d) How does Langston Hughes use the image of river in *A Negro Speaks of Rivers*?
3. Explain and annotate any **one** from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) We slowly drove, he knew no haste,  
And I had put away  
My labor, and my leisure too,  
For his civility.
  - (b) Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows  
That too many people have died?
  - (c) In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman  
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

OR

GROUP-B

4. Attempt any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is a realistic portrayal of the contemporary society. Discuss.
  - (b) Comment on the significance and appropriateness of the title *The Great Gatsby*.
  - (c) Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* weaves an intricate mosaic of women joined by their love for each other, the men who abuse them, and the children they care for. Discuss.
  - (d) How does the death of Celie's mother change Celie's relationship with her family, with herself, and with God in *The Color Purple*?

5. Answer briefly any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) What is the difference between West Egg and East Egg? What sets these two areas apart?
  - (b) In *The Great Gatsby* we come to know Tom Buchanan through Nick’s description. How does Nick describe Tom?
  - (c) “Celie! And whole cities were destroyed by slave catching wars.”—Comment on this reference to slave trade and slavery.
  - (d) How do Nettie’s letters differ from those of Celie’s? Attempt a comparative analysis.

**GROUP-C**

6. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Comment on the role of the narrator in Hawthorne’s *The Ambitious Guest*.
  - (b) Critically examine the plot and narrative structure of Edgar Allan Poe’s *The Cask of Amontillado*?
  - (c) Write a note on the ending of O. Henry’s *The Cactus* with reference to the name *Ventomarme*.
  - (d) In Kate Chopin’s *Regret* woman’s life is defined with reference to marriage, maternity and motherhood. — Do you agree with this view? Justify.
7. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 200 words: 5×1 = 5
- (a) “He could have borne to live an undistinguished life, but not to be forgotten in the grave.”—Explain with reference to Hawthorne’s *The Ambitious Guest*.
  - (b) Describe after O. Henry the consequence of the following: “ ‘I will send you my answer to-morrow,’ she said; and he, the indulgent, confident victor, smilingly granted the delay.”
  - (c) “The excitement was all over, and they were gone. How still it was when they were gone! Mamzelle Aurélie stood upon the gallery, looking and listening.” What are “these things”? Why does she no longer complain?

**OR**

**GROUP-D**

8. Answer any **one** question from the following in about 500 words: 15×1 = 15
- (a) Critically analyse *Death of a Salesman* as a modern tragedy.
  - (b) How does Arthur Miller use symbols in the play *Death of a Salesman* and to what purpose? Discuss with a close reference to the text.
9. Answer any **one** question from the following: 5×1 = 5
- (a) Comment on the use of symbols of “seeds” and “diamonds” in *Death of a Salesman*.
  - (b) Locate and explain:  
“BIFF:…I’ve always made a point of not wasting my life, and every time I come back here I know that that all I’ve done is to waste my life.”

—x—