

## FOURTH SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2018

(CUCSS)

English

Elective EN 4E 21—INDIAN ENGLISH FICTION

(2012 Admissions)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum : 36 Weightage

I. Answer *all* the following questions in *a word, phrase or sentence* :

- 1 Which is the first Indian English novel to win the Sahitya Akademi Award ?
- 2 Who represents the feminine principle in *Cat and Shakespeare* ?
- 3 Who is the author of the novel *Such a Long Journey* ?
- 4 What is the name of Swami's friend whose father is the Deputy Police Superintendent of Malgudi ?
- 5 Who is the protagonist of the novel *That Long Silence* ?
- 6 In which year was the novel *Coolie* published ?
- 7 In *Midnight's Children*, on what date is Saleem Sinai born?
- 8 What is Ghulam Mohammed's nickname for Major Bilimoria in *Such a Long Journey* ?

(8 × ½ = 4 weightage)

II. Write a paragraph of about 150 words each on any *six* of the following :

- 9 Discuss the significance of the title *Nectar in a Sieve*.
- 10 Bilasia in *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas*.
- 11 Comment on the line from *Midnight's Children*. "I had been mysteriously handcuffed to history".
- 12 Beginnings of Indian English Fiction.
- 13 'Silence' as a metaphor in Shashi Deshpande's *That Long Silence*.
- 14 Mulk Raj Anand's *Coolie* as a tale of misery and exploitation.
- 15 Symbolism in *A Dream in Hawaii*.
- 16 Marital conflict in *Cry, the Peacock*.
- 17 Narrative strategies employed by Amitav Ghosh in *The Shadow Lines*.
- 18 Thematic concerns in Raja Rao's *Cat and Shakespeare*.

(6 × 2 = 12 weightage)

Turn over

III. Write an essay of about 450 words each on any *four* of the following questions, choosing one from each section :

## SECTION A

- 19 Anand's portrayal of India in *Coolie*.
- 20 "R. K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends* glorifies the bliss of childhood but at the end, laments the loss of that bliss" —Elucidate.
- 21 The metaphysical quest as represented in *Cat and Shakespeare*.

## SECTION B

- 22 "The theme of *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* is universal as it describes the journey of a man in search of completeness and ultimate fulfilment"—Discuss.
- 23 Analyse the social condition and plight of women in India with reference to the character of Rukmani in *Nectar in a Sieve*.
- 24 Bhabani Bhattacharya's *A Dream in Hawaii* as a novel which belongs to the genre of social realism.

## SECTION C

- 25 Attempt a character sketch of Gustad Noble in *Such a Long Journey*.
26. How do Shashi Deshpande and Anita Desai analyze the system of marriage and family in their novels ? Support your answer with reference to the texts prescribed.
- 27 Briefly examine the contributions of women novelists to Indian English fiction.

## SECTION D

- 28 According to the critics, Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* is a landmark in Indian English Literature. Do you agree or not ?
- 29 The various conflicts in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
- 30 What are the salient features of post-1980 Indian English fiction?

(4 × 5 = 20 weightage)