



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2022/M.A.(ENG)-2023

Course Name – Indian Writing in English

Course Code - MELS302

(Semester III)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) State the title of the play for which Mahesh Dattani got the Sahitya Academy Award in 1998.
 - a) Final Solutions
 - b) Where There's a Will
 - c) Tara
 - d) Dance Like a Man
- (ii) Name the character whom Mr. Patel gives more preference to.
 - a) Chandan
 - b) Bharati
 - c) Tara
 - d) Dan and Tara
- (iii) State which theme is not related to the play Tara.
 - a) Artist vs society
 - b) Gender stereotyping
 - c) Family saga
 - d) Disability and marginalization
- (iv) Identify the author of The Shadow Lines
 - a) Jhumpa Lahiri
 - b) Salman Rushdie
 - c) Anita Desai
 - d) Amitav Ghosh
- (v) Identify which of the following is a feature of a memory play.
 - a) A character experiences something profound and usually painful
 - b) There is a re-living of the same painful experience till the character is able to reach redemption
 - c) Both (a) and (b)
 - d) None of these
- (vi) Identify who the narrator of The Shadow Lines was in love with.
 - a) May Price
 - b) Tridib
 - c) Ila
 - d) None of these
- (vii) Apply your knowledge to text and select the right answer: In 'The Shadow Lines' a recurring nightmare haunts Robi because he witnessed a riot that killed _____.
 - a) May
 - b) Tridib
 - c) Thamma
 - d) The narrator
- (viii) Apply your knowledge of the text 'The Shadow Lines' and state which statement is true:

- In the novel, the native travels to the coloniser's land instead of the conventional oppressor coming to the ruled colony.
- c) Ghosh's novel is a critique of post-colonial nationalism.
- (ix) Apply your knowledge of the text to select the right answer. Against the backdrop of which historical event is 'The Shadow Lines' set.
- a) Partition of India
b) Communal Riots of 1963-64 in Dhaka and Calcutta
c) Second World War
d) All of these.
- (x) Interpret these words in the play 'Dance Like a Man': 'A woman in a man's world is progressive, a man in a woman's world is pathetic.'
- a) It brings out our culture's fear of the effeminate man.
b) It talks about segregation of gender roles in our society.
c) It brings out the hegemony of heteronormativity.
d) None of these.
- (xi) From the reading of Tagore's Nationalism, infer what we can conclude:
- a) Tagore's biggest fear was that humans were succumbing to the force of Nationalism unknowingly through the mere mimicry of the West
b) Tagore looked at nation as a large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory
c) Tagore's idea of nationalism rests on the idea of political freedom
d) All of these
- (xii) Tagore's idea that the forces of industrial capitalism were controlling human emotions and alienating them from their higher and true ideals can be compared with the beliefs of which thinker? Select the correct option.
- a) B.R Ambedkar
b) Karl Marx
c) Mahatma Gandhi
d) None of these
- (xiii) Assess the given options and select the correct answer.
- a) In the field of Indian English Novels, the problems of identity and articulation have produced an ambivalence
b) Indian English writers derive their strengths from a concern and preoccupation with India, thoughtfully exploring Indian life and culture
c) Only 2 is correct
d) Both are correct
- (xiv) Statement: When a writer writes in any of the regional languages, that writer does not carry the burden of 'culture, tradition and ethos' but a writer of Indian English does. From your understanding of Meenakshi Mukherjee's 'The Anxiety of Indianness', assess which of the following is a proper explanation for the statement.
- a) In the former case, the writer addresses an audience which is linguistically and culturally unified, but in the case of the Indian English Writer, the larger context comes into play because of the country's cultural and linguistic diversity
b) For the Indian English writer it becomes a daunting task to refer to a unified culture although he/she might hail from one particular region of the country
c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
d) Only 1 is correct
- (xv) Assess the given statements and state how Meenakshi Mukherjee defends Indian English writers.
- a) Mukherjee states that the choice of the English language does not indicate a counter-nationalistic feeling nor does it indicate their desire for international fame because the audience for regional writers is larger.
b) Mukherjee states that these writers write in English simply because they have literary competence in English irrespective of what their mother-tongue might be.

c) Indian English writers by choosing to write in English, try to unify the country into a linguistic homogeneity so that they can represent a collective identity.

d) The above arguments are forwarded by Mukherjee in defense of Indian Writing in English.

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Group-B
(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Discuss how does Tagore compare the Indian situation with America in his essay Nationalism (3) in India.
3. State features of experimental theatre. (3)
4. Write on Dattani's theatrical techniques with close reference to the play titled Tara. (3)
5. Analyse how does Dattani portrays the insensitive side of society towards disabled people in Tara. (3)
6. Briefly comment on the critique of gender roles in 'The Old Playhouse'. (3)

OR

Evaluate the ending of R.K. Narayan's short story 'Under the Banyan Tree'. (3)

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Write on the theme of Loss and Longing in Kamala Das's 'My Grandmother's House'. (5)
8. State how Meenakshi Mukherjee discusses the difference between Indian English literature and bhasha literature. (5)
9. Examine Dattani's presentation of Bharti in the play, "Tara". (5)
10. In the play, "Tara", Mahesh Dattani depicts the gendered marginalization of disabled bodies. Do you agree? Justify your answer. (5)
11. Amitav Ghosh explores the theme of alienation and the diasporic experience through the character of Tha'mma in "The Shadow Lines". Do you agree? Justify your answer. (5)
12. Analyse "The Shadow Lines" as a memory novel. (5)

OR

Tara mocks and ridicules the gendered nature of social roles. Do you agree? Justify your answer. (5)
