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Term End Examination 2025-2026
Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2025
Course Name – Indian Writing in English
Course Code - MEN10402
(Semester I)

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) Where does the central story of the play *Hayavadana* take place? Select the right answer.

a) Ujjain b) Dwarka
c) Dharamapura d) Nalanda

(ii) State when and where Rabindranath Tagore delivered his lectures on Nationalism.

a) 1916 in Japan b) 1916 in Germany
c) 1916 in France d) 1916 in India

(iii) Select the right answer: Raja Rao narrates Kanthapura as:

a) Autobiographical novel b) A historical fiction
c) Gandhian novel d) Sthala-purana

(iv) Identify which character has a profound impact on the narrator in the novel 'The Shadow Lines'.

a) Tridib b) Justice Datta Chaudhari
c) May Price d) None of these

(v) Identify the theatre Girish Karnard associated with.

a) Theatre of Roots b) Absurd Theatre
c) Theatre of Cruelty d) Theatre of the Oppressed

(vi) Select the correct option: The setting and background of the poem 'Hunger' can be described as _____.

a) A slum b) A sea-shore
c) A temple d) A market place

(vii) Analyse the following statements and select the right answer.Statement 1: Tagore was highly critical about the concept of Nation. Statement 2: The concept of Nation according to Tagore was an ideology brought by the West.

a) Only 1 is right b) Only 2 is right
c) Both 1 and 2 are right d) Both 1 and 2 are wrong

(viii) 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.

(ix) Apply your knowledge to assess what best describes the play Hayavadana's attitude towards the idea of a "complete" human being?

a) It celebrates completeness as an achievable goal
b) It rejects incompleteness as unnatural
c) It critiques and satirizes the very idea of "completeness"
d) It equates completeness with religious devotion

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(x) Choose the correct answer: Benedict Anderson characterized nation as _____.

a) An imagined community
b) A political and monetary union of individuals
c) An intermittent risk to humanity
d) None of these

(xi) Select the specific trope which Amitav Ghosh uses to depict the creation of borders and boundaries in The Shadow Lines.

a) The trope of house
b) The trope of objects
c) The trope of memory
d) None of these

(xii) Study the given options and choose the one that best describes the poetry of Kamala Das.

a) Kamala Das is not only a poet of love but also a poet of body--in her poems she exposes how sex is used as form of male dominance
b) Kamala Das's poetry is predominantly about sexual gratification
c) Kamala Das's life and wroks are motivated by a hunger for power
d) None of these

(xiii) Study the given options and choose the one that best describes 'The Old Playhouse' by Kamala Das:

a) 'The Old Playhouse' is a protest against the woman being reduced to a 'wife'; a person shorn of identity and individuality.
b) It shows the speaker's distaste for male lust.
c) It charts the contemplations of a woman trapped in a loveless marriage to an overbearing man.
d) All of these.

(xiv) Select which of the following statements about Kamala Das is incorrect.

a) She is a bilingual writer
b) She is a Confessional poet
c) Kamala Das wrote poems in both Malayalam and Bengali
d) The thematic concerns of her poetry testifies to the openness that she practised towards the many experiences in her life

(xv) Who is the mascular man with great physical strength, the son of a black smith in Hayavadana? Select the appropriate option from the following.

a) Kapila
b) Hayavadana
c) Devdutta
d) Bhagwata

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions) 3 x 5=15

2. Examine the idea of 'Indianness' with close reference to Raja Rao's Foreword to Kanthapura. (3)
3. Explain what Tagore means when he says people who have political freedom are not necessarily free. (3)

4. Relate how Narayan describes the astrologer's knowledge of astronomy ? (3)

5. Assess how Amitav Ghosh depicts the death of Dan and Alan using the memory technique in The Shadow Lines. (3)
6. Analyse how class differences influences the relationship among the characters in "The Shadow Lines". (3)

OR

Analyse how Meenakshi Mukherjee answers important questions regarding cultural identity and post-colonial makeover in the context of Indian writings in English in her essay, "The Anxiety of Indianness" (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions) 5 x 6=30

7. Analyze Tagore's ideas on Nation and Nationalism. (5)
8. Appraise the significance of the lines from 'The Old Playhouse': "Cowering Beneath your monstrous ego I ate the magic loaf and Became a dwarf." (5)
9. Assess the historical perspective in the context of the rise to Indian writings in English. (5)
10. State how Meenakshi Mukherjee attempts to show the difference between Indian English literatures and bhasha literatures. (5)

11. Discuss the character of the astrologer in "An Astrologer's Day". (5)
12. How did Karnad use the element of humour in the play 'Hayavadana'? Evaluate with close reference to the play. (5)

OR

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)

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