



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2022
Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2019/M.A.(ENG)-2021
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 which of the following characters reveal the secret behind the twins' separation ?
- a) Mr. Patel
b) Bharathi
c) Chandan
d) Roopa
- (ii) Apply your understanding of Meenakshi Mukherjee's 'The Anxiety of Indianness' to assess which of the following statements is correct
- a) Meenakshi Mukherjee states that 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, so Indian English literature is different from regional literature of India
b) Meenakshi Mukherjee states that when a writer of Indian English writes, that writing does not carry the burden of 'culture, tradition and ethos' but writers of regional languages do
c) Writers of Indian English pursue fame and money and are more loyal to England and her language
d) It is unethical to write in the language of our colonial masters
- (iii) Identify the author of The Shadow Lines
- a) Jhumpa Lahiri
b) Salman Rushdie
c) Anita Desai
d) Amitav Ghosh
- (iv) Jayanta Mahapatra's poems
- a) depict the experiences of the Indian Diaspora
b) address climate change and environmental issues
c) faithfully describe the locale, landscape and his relationship with his land
d) are written in the confessional mode
- (v) Identify which of the following is a feature of a memory play?
- a) A character experiences something profound
b) There is a re-living of the same painful

- and usually painful
- experience till the character is able to reach redemption
- c) Both (a) and (b)
- d) None of the above
- (vi) Identify the play from which the following lines are quoted: "A woman in a man's world may be considered as progressive. But a man in a woman's world is pathetic"
- a) This line is quoted from the play Tara
- b) This line is quoted from the play Bravely Fought the Queen
- c) This line is quoted from Final Solutions
- d) This line is quoted from Dance Like a Man
- (vii) In the story 'Under the Banyan Tree', Narayan presents the villagers as...
- a) gullible folks
- b) superstitious
- c) insensitive to their surroundings
- d) conservative and patriarchal
- (viii) 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
- (ix) Apply your knowledge to text and select the right answer. In 'The Shadow Lines' a recurring nightmarish haunts Robi because he witnessed a riot that killed.....
- a) May
- b) Tridib
- c) Thamma
- d) the narrator
- (x) Apply your knowledge of the text to select the right answer. In The Shadow Lines, when May says, 'It shouldn't be here, it is an act of violence, it is obscene', she is referring to.....
- a) The statue of Queen Victoria
- b) Tridib's journal
- c) Statue of Queen Elizabeth
- d) None of the above
- (xi) From your analysis of the play Dance Like a Man, what do you think Ratna's character stands for?
- a) a devoted artist with single-minded all-devouring passion for art
- b) a schemer with the hawk's eyes fixed on success in social term and pursuit of career
- c) a victim of socio cultural hegemony and an internalizer turned agent of the very oppressive normativity
- d) all the above
- (xii) From the reading of Tagore's Nationalism, we can conclude that.....
- 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 the above
- (xiii) 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
- (xiv) Name the play that Dan in "Tara" attempts to write
- a) Tara and Chandan
- b) Twinkle Tara
- c) Tara
- d) The Twins
- (xv) Assess the given options and state which issue is addressed by Meenakshi Mukherjee in her influential essay "The Anxiety of Indianness"
- a) Elaborating on the larger burden of culture, tradition and civilization, which a writer has to bear, she expresses her anxiety over the issue of Indianness becoming a favourite
- b) She expresses anxiety over the fact that English is a language of privilege and power

obsession not only with critics and reviewers
but also the writers themselves

c) Both 1 and 2 are right

d) She expresses anxiety over the fact that
English does not permeate all social levels
and is not used in all subaltern contexts

Group-B
(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Examine how Dattani portrays the conflict between the three generations in the play "Dance Like A Man" ? (3)
3. Would you agree that Dattani addresses the problem of gender discrimination in the play "Tara"? Justify your answer. (3)
4. Establish the relevance of the title of Jayanta Mahapatra's poem, "Hunger". (3)
5. Chart the development of the sibling relation between Tara and Chandan in Dattani's *Tara*. (3)
6. Explain what is meant by this term, "Indian writing in English" ? (3)

OR

Trace the features of a memory play in Dattani's "Tara",

(3)

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Examine how maps and borders are used as symbols in Ghosh's novel, "The Shadow Lines". (5)
8. Analyse the "Foreward" to "Kanthapura" as Raja Rao's credo for his creativity. (5)
9. Analyse the socio-political conditions which gave rise to Indian writings in English. (5)
10. In the play, "Tara", Dattani depicts the gendered marginalization of disabled bodies. Do you agree? Justify your answer. (5)
11. State how Raja Rao justifies his decision to narrate "Kanthapura" as a 'sthala purana' in the 'Foreward'. (5)

OR

State how Meenakshi Mukherjee attempts to show the difference between Indian English literatures and bhasha literatures.

(5)

12. ' In the flickering dark his hut opened like a wound'. Explain the line quoted from Jayanta Mahapatra's poem, "Hunger". (5)

OR

Explain why the astrologer would guess the past of the client in the story, "An Astrologer's Day", by R. K. Narayan. (5)
