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Your Roll No.

1987

B.A. (Hons.)/B.Sc. (Hons.) Maths

D

Discipline Centred Concurrent Course

ENGLISH

(i) Modern Indian Literature etc.

Time : 2 Hours

Maximum Marks : 50

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Note :— The maximum marks printed on the question paper are applicable for the candidates registered with the School of Open Learning for the B.A. (Hons.). These marks will, however, be scaled down proportionately in respect of the students of regular colleges, at the time of posting of awards for compilation of result.

P.T.O.

Part A

Attempt *one* question from Part A. 20

1. *The Merchant of Venice* :

(a) (i) Is it correct to say that Portia is the heroine in *The Merchant of Venice* ? 10

(ii) What does the choice of caskets reveal about Bassanio's character ? 10

Or

(b) Do you think that the treatment of Shylock in the trial scene is unfair ? Give reasons for your answer. 20

2. *Wuthering Heights* :

(a) (i) What role does Nelly Dean play in *Wuthering Heights* ? 10

(ii) Write a note on the knocking on the window. 10

Or

(b) Discuss the Catherine-Heathcliff relationship. 20

3. *Mother Courage* :

- (a) (i) Comment on Mother Courage's drawing of straws to tell the fortune. 10
- (ii) Does Katherine's imitation of Yvette's walk wearing red shoes anticipate her later sacrifice ? 10

Or

- (b) Brecht's *Mother Courage* brings together disfigurement and war. Discuss. 20

4. *A Passage to India* :

- (a) (i) Discuss Godbole's character in *A Passage to India*. 10
- (ii) Would Ronnie Heaslop and Adela Quested have made a good couple ? Why do you think so ? 10

Or

- (b) *A Passage to India* compares different religions. Discuss. 20

Part B**Modern Indian Literature**

Attempt *all* questions from Part B.

30

5. **Poetry Section :**

(a) A conscience of years is between us. He is young.

The whirls of glory are breaking down for him before me.

Does he think of the past as a loss we have lived,

our own ?

Out of silence we look back now at what we do not know.

(i) Mention the name of the poet and the poem from where the above lines have been quoted. 4

(ii) Who are the two people who have a "conscience of years" between them ? What does the poet mean by "conscience of years" ? What do you think is the "loss we have lived" being referred to by the poet ? 6

Or

- (b) G.M. Muktibodh's "So Very Far" is said to emphasize the class divisions in society and the inability of the individual to bring about any significant social change. Discuss. 10

6. Prose Section :

- (a) A bunch of bananas dragged itself out of a mound, climbed over the side of the boat and leaped into the river ! It was not one of those accidents when things topple into the river from overloaded boats. The bunch of bananas did it slowly, deliberately—as if it were alive !

(i) Name the author as also the title of this story. 4

(ii) What was actually happening to the bananas ?

What is the significance of this incident in the final outcome in the story ? 6

Or

- (b) Would you sympathise with Begum Jan in "*Lihaf*" or do you find her equally at fault in the manner in which she treats the young narrator ? Give a reasoned answer. 10

7. Attempt any *one* question :

- (a) The consciousness of death is a recurring motif in the poetry of Jibanananda Das. Elaborate how death is used by Das as a poetic idea in the two poems "*Before Dying*" and "*Windy Night*". 10

Or

- (b) Would you agree with the view in "*The Holy Panchayat*" that God operates as a spirit behind the panchayat in the delivery of justice ? What can be the consequences of this view ? 10

Or

- (c) Do you agree with the view that the “boundary between the madhouse and the outside world has collapsed” in the world of Toba Tek Singh ? Give a reasoned answer. 10