

This question paper contains 8 printed pages]

Your Roll No.

2622

B.A. (Programme)/I

D-I

(T)

ENGLISH DISCIPLINE—Paper I

(The Individual and Society, An Anthology)

Time : 3 Hours .

Maximum Marks : 100

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

Attempt *All* questions.

1. (A) Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow :

- (a) Pyarimohan was much disturbed by this news. If women began to read and write, novels and plays would soon make their way into the home and it

P.T.O.

would be hard to uphold the household virtues. Moreover, he had, by special reflection, evolved an exceedingly subtle theory. He said that the power of the female and the power of the male together produced the sacred power of the conjugal relationship; but if the power of the female was vanquished through education and study, the power of the male would be paramount. Then male power would clash with male power to produce so terrific a destructive energy that the power of the conjugal bond would be completely destroyed, and so the women become a widow.

- (i) Identify the text and the author and explain the context.

(ii) Why was Pyarimohan disturbed ? Why was he so concerned about 'the household virtues' ? 7

(iii) What is the significance of the 'subtle theory' evolved by Pyarimohan ? Do you think this theory is an attempt to suppress the voice of a woman ? 8

Or

(b) When I was eleven, after a beating

I took and smashed the ruler to kindling.

Fingering the splinters I could not believe.

How could this rod prove weaker than me ?

It was not that I was never again beaten.

But in destroying that stick that had measured my

pain

the next day I was an adolescent, not a child.

This is not a tale of innocence lost but power

Gained : I would not be Sisyphus,

There are things that I should learn to break.

- (i) Identify the text and the author and explain the context. 5
- (ii) Comment upon the speaker's response to violence. 7
- (iii) Explain the expression 'not a tale of innocence lost but power/Gained'. 8

(B) Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow :

(a) On the Grand Trunk Road

Thundering across the Punjab to Amritsar,

this would be a dhaba

where the truck-drivers pull in,

swearing and sweating,

full of lust for real food,

just like home.

(i) Identify the text and the author and explain the context. 5

(ii) Bring out the nostalgia and remembrance of the past in these lines. 7

(iii) Explain the metaphor of food in the poem. 8

Or

(b) The sex-goddess switches

to thickened English to emphasize

a joke. We laugh and clap. Here

we need not be embarrassed by words

dropping like red pellets into foreign ears.

The flickering movie-light

wipes from our faces years of America, sons

who want mohawks and refuse to run

the family store, daughters who date

on the sly.

(i) Identify the text and the author and explain

the context.

- (ii) Comment on 'entertainment' Indian movies provide to Indian immigrants in America. 7
- (iii) Write a note on the generational gap Indian immigrants face in America. 8
2. 'Bosom Friend' exposes the hollowness of the idea that we are born equal in modern society. Discuss. 20

Or

In 'Deliverance' as well as 'Joothan', the main characters are oppressed in the name of caste though the two stories conclude differently. Compare and contrast the two endings.

3. Comment on the narrator's response to racial prejudice in 'Telephone Conversation'. 20

Or

Examine the ways in which race, class and gender constantly shift the balance of power between the American girl and the young man in 'Blackout'.

4. How does Intizar Husain use the figure of Ashwatthama to comment on war in 'A Chronicle of the Peacocks' ? 20

Or

What realities are contrasted in Henry Reed's 'Naming of Parts' ? Comment on the contrast between life and death, between interior and exterior.