

M.A. 4th Semester Examination 2014

ENGLISH

PAPER — 402(A/B)

Full Marks : 40

Time : 2 hours

Answer all questions

The figures in the right hand margin indicate marks

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable

GROUP—A

UNIT — I

1. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1

(a) Critically examine Emily Dickinson's preoccupation with death with reference to the poems you have read.

(Turn Over)

- (b) Critically comment on the element of egotism in Whitman's "Song of Myself" (Sections 1-6).
- (c) Is it possible to offer an allegorical reading of "After Apple-picking" ? Discuss.

UNIT – II

2. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1

- (a) Critically examine the structure of Ginsberg's "Howl."
- (b) Examine the confessional tone in the poems of Sylvia Plath with particular reference to "Daddy" or "Lady Lazarns".
- (c) Discuss Brooks's *The Sonnet Ballad* as a poem that refashions the conventional love-sonnet.

UNIT – III

3. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words) : 10 × 1

(a) Consider Thoreau's *Walden* as a transcendentalist text. Examine any one of its chapters to establish your argument.

(b) It has been asserted that Emerson's *The American Scholar* is, in effect, "America's intellectual declaration of independence". How far do you accept this opinion ?

(c) Comment on the significance of the title of *The Woman Warrior*.

4. Comment briefly on any *two* of the following (within 100 words) : 5 × 2

(i) So was I once myself a swinger of branches.
And so I dream of going back to be

(ii) The carriage held but just ourselves-
And Immortality.

(iii) Hitler as "daddy"

(iv) an eli eli lamma lamma sabacthani
saxophone.

- (v) Sing on there in the swamp,
O singer bashful and tender
I hear your notes, I hear your call
- (vi) The expression 'pasted to stars already' in
Strong Man, Riding Horses'.

GROUP-B

1. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1
- (a) Karnad, in *Hayavadana*, presents an ambivalent discourse on the head and the body. Discuss.
- (b) Examine the plot-construction of *Hayavadana* to show how Karnad modifies the stories inherited by him.
- (c) Discuss *Red Oleanders* as a post colonial play.
- (d) Would you agree that Nandini is the central symbol in *Red Oleanders*? Discuss.

2. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1

(a) Bring out the element of nostalgia in Toru Dutt's poems that you have read.

(b) Sarojini Naidu regards nature as a refuge from the cares of human life. Discuss with reference to 'Summer Woods'.

(c) Consider the appropriateness of the title of Sri Aurobindo's 'The Golden light'.

(d) "Toru Dutt's poetry presents a purely aesthetic experience without any social relevance". Do you agree? Discuss with special reference to the poems in your course.

3. Answer any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1

(a) Discuss how "Background Casually" is related to the identity-problem faced by the poet.

- (b) Critically analyze "The Sunshine Cat" with reference to the issue of patriarchy and women-empowerment.
- (c) Irony is central to Nissim Ezekiel's poetry. Answer with reference to the poems you have studied.
- (d) Write a note on Kolatkar's sceptical attitude towards religion with reference to the poems in your syllabus.

4. Comment on any *two* of the following (within 100 words): 5 × 2

- (a) Suggestions of the passage of time in *Hayavadana*.
- (b) "... The best poets wait for words".
- (c) "When, finally, we reached the place,
/We hardly knew why we were there."
- (d) My body is God's happy living tool,
My spirit a vast sun of deathless light.

(e) You and I together, Love, in the deep
blossoming woods-
Engirt with love-voiced silences and
gleaming solitudes.

(f) The significance of Ranjan in *Red
Oleanders*.

