

Total Pages—7

PG/IVS/ENG-404/14

M.A. 4th Semester Examination, 2014

ENGLISH

PAPER – ENG - 404

Full Marks : 40

Time : 2 hours

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks
Candidates are required to give their answers in their
own words as far as practicable*

404(A)

1. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words) : 10 × 1
 - (a) Show how Achebe problematizes the issue of gender in *Things fall Apart*.
 - (b) Write a note on the use of symbols in *Things Fall Apart*.

(Turn Over)

- (c) Critically examine the interracial relationship between Mary Turner and Moses in Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*.
- (d) Justify the appropriateness of the title of Doris Lessing's novel *The Grass is Singing*.
2. Attempt any *one* of the following (within 300 words): 10 × 1
- (a) In *A Dance of the Forests*, Soyinka aspires to act as "the conscience of his society rather than its hypocritical praise-singer". Discuss.
- (b) How does Demoke's role in *A Dance of the Forests* embody Soyinka's idea of the significance of an artist ?
- (c) How does Soyinka describe the African ritual theatre in his essay *Drama and the African World-view* to distinguish it from the Western idea of theatre ?
- (d) Show how Soyinka establishes with reference to J.P. Clark's play, *Song of a Goat* that

inadequate knowledge of the African world view impedes proper appreciation of the play.

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

(a) Comment on the centrality of the metaphor of the 'house' in *A House for Mr. Biswas*.

(b) Discuss Naipaul's use of irony and humour in *A House for Mr Biswas*.

(c) Discuss how "A Far Cry from Africa" deals with the theme of split identity and the consequent anxiety.

(d) Comment on the epigraph to "Crusoe's Journal" and show how it relates to the poem.

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

(a) The ending of *Things Fall Apart*.

(4)

- (b) The reference to Christopher Columbus in "Crusoe's Journal".
- (c) The Half-child in *A Dance of the Forests*.
- (d) The "chthonic presences" in the African world-view.
- (e) Mr. Biswas's ominous sixth finger in *A House for Mr. Biswas*.
- (f) The newspaper report of the murder of Mary Turner with which *The Grass is Singing* begins.

404(B)

Answer **all** questions

1. Answer any *one* of the following questions (with in 300 words) : 10 × 1
 - (a) Do you subscribe to the view that Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* reinforces dominant negative stereotypes about India? Give reasons in support of your answer.

- (b) Discuss Jasmine as a modified version of the traditional literary picaresque.
- (c) Examine the role of memory in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (d) Partition precipitates both geographical and psychological dislocation in *The Shadow Lines*. Discuss.

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

- (a) Consider the diasporic features as delineated in *Midnight's Children*.
- (b) *Ice Candy Man* records Lenny's journey from innocence to experience. Discuss.
- (c) *Buddha of Suburbia* presents a generational clash within a diasporic community. Comment.
- (d) 'A Temporary Matter' is a story about the temporary erasing of memory in order to escape its torture. Discuss.

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

(a) Critically examine Rushdie's observations, in *Imaginary Homelands*, on the purpose served by literature.

(b) Critically discuss the significance of the title of Rushdie's *Imaginary Homelands*.

(c) Consider Stuart Hall's use of the notions of 'being' and 'becoming' in the formation of cultural identities.

(d) Explain Why Stuart Hall employs the notion of Derridean 'difference' in situating black diaspora in the Caribbean islands.

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

(i) Jasmine's encounter with Half-Face.

(ii) The Child's confusion over Mr. Pirzada's identity in 'when Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine'.

- (iii) Tridib's death in *The Shadow Lines*.
 - (iv) Use of the term "Chutnification" in *Midnight's Children*.
 - (v) The role of Armet Francis in the unification of the black diaspora.
 - (vi) Rushdie's description of Bombay in *Imaginary Homelands*.
-