

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG HE 3

2021

(Held in 2022)

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-5036

(Literature of the Indian Diaspora)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10

- (a) In which of your prescribed novels, do you find the small town Kikono?
- (b) In the novel, *The Book of Secrets* who stole Corbin's diary?
- (c) In which year was *Anita and Me* published?
- (d) Who is the 'Me' in the novel, *Anita and Me*?

- (e) In *The Namesake*, what was the pet name suggested by Ashoke for the baby?
- (f) Who is Dina Dalal?
- (g) In which of the prescribed novels, do you find the character Sam Lowbridge?
- (h) Who is Graham in the novel, *The Namesake*?
- (i) To which caste do Ishwar and Omprakash belong to?
- (j) What does Sonia get Gogol for his thirteenth birthday?

2. Write very short answers of the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) Why was Ashima Ganguli not allowed to leave the hospital after her delivery?
- (b) How does Maneck react to the political turmoil in India after his return from Dubai?
- (c) Why was Pipa and Mariamu's marriage strained after their son's birth?
- (d) Why did Gogol resent his name?
- (e) Why does Meena secretly leave the house?

3. Write short notes on any *four* of the following : 5×4=20

- (a) The caste system in *A Fine Balance*
- (b) Quest for identity in *The Book of Secrets*
- (c) Meena's early memories in *Anita and Me*
- (d) The cultural tensions between Gogol and his family
- (e) Maneck's story
- (f) Albert Corbin

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 10×4=40

- (a) Discuss how Ashima negotiates her identity at different stages of her life, as a newly-wed bride, a young mother, a mother whose children have left home, and a widow.
- (b) Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance* aptly exposes the rural/urban divide in the context of post-colonial India. Discuss.
- (c) Describe how Ashima in *The Namesake* reinvents herself after her experiences of geo-cultural dislocation.
- (d) Critically discuss some of the major themes Vassanji addresses in *The Book of Secrets*.

(e) How does Meera Syal articulate the anxieties of the diaspora in *Anita and Me*? Write a well-thoughtout answer.

(f) What purpose does the diary of Albert Corbin serve in the plot of *The Book of Secrets*? Give a well-reasoned answer.

(g) Critically comment on Anita and Meena's relationship in *Anita and Me*.

(h) Distancing herself from the political issues of the time Dina says :

"Government problems and games played by people in power ... doesn't affect ordinary people like us."

But in the end it does affect all of them drastically.

Discuss with reference to the lives of the characters in Mistry's *A Fine Balance* how the individual is affected by the larger socio-political changes in the public sphere.

★ ★ ★