

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 marks)

I. Annotate any FIVE of the following. (5 × 2 = 10)

1. Late August, given heavy rain and sun  
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.  
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot  
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.
2. Punish me for I've written the significance of the dream  
in my own blood written a book ridden with an obsession  
Punish me for I have spent my life sanctifying the dream of the future  
spent it enduring the tribulations of the night.
3. And this great white father  
Imperturbable in his marble pedestal  
looks down upon his brown daughters  
votive candles shining like lust  
in his all seeing eyes  
unmoved by their persistent prayers.

4. Give me a home  
that isn't mine,  
where I can slip in and out of rooms  
without a trace,  
never worrying  
about the plumbing,  
the colour of the curtains,  
the cacophony of books by the bedside.
5. Ai, I'll not speak of sadness here on earth,  
of having lost a companion  
who was never servile.
6. Flying through the dark like a beam of light  
it reveals the faces that are closest,  
while the rest sink among the unnoticed  
the unthought, the regretted.
7. But a bird that stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
his wings are clipped and  
his feet are lied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

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8. Joyful, joyful, joyful,  
as only dogs know how to be happy  
with only the autonomy  
of their shameless spirit.

SECTION B — (35 marks)

II. Analyse any THREE of the following passages and answer the questions given below: (3 × 5 = 15)

9. One of the boasts of the camp was that the purring refrigeration of its extensive wine cellar was inaudible outside the kitchen compound. It was also a eco-friendly, depending on solar panels for electricity and for reducing all its kitchen waste into compost to fertilize its extensive vegetable gardens.

- (a) Give the meaning of the word 'boasts'.
- (b) What is the camp referred to here?
- (c) Explain the passage.

10. I've been asked to speak about "some aspect of craft." I dithered over this lecture. I always dither over lectures, never more than when they're about "craft." They cause me an anxiety that the request for a piece of fiction never does and never could. Not that I find writing fiction easy—I don't—but I find it within my remit.

- (a) What is the meaning of the word 'dither'?
- (b) Whom does "I" refer to?
- (c) Explain the passage.

11. I was ashamed of her English. I believed that her English reflected the quality of what she had to say. That is, because she expressed them imperfectly her thoughts were imperfect. And I had plenty of empirical evidence to support me: the fact that people in department stores, at banks, and at restaurants did not take her seriously, did not give her good service, pretended not to understand her, or even acted as if they did not hear her.

- (a) Give the meaning of the first sentence of the passage.
- (b) Whom does "she" refer to?
- (c) Explain the above passage in your words.

12. Fortunately, I happen to be rebellious in nature and enjoy the challenge of disproving assumptions made about me. I became an English major my first year in college, after being enrolled as pre-med. I started writing nonfiction as a freelancer the week after I was told by my former boss that writing was my worst skill and I should hone my talents toward account management.
- Explain the term "freelancer".
  - Whom does "I" refer to here?
  - Explain the given passage.
13. Fear, pleasure, sorrow, thought and violence are all interrelated. Most of us take pleasure in violence, in disliking somebody, hating a particular race or group of people, having antagonistic feelings towards others. But in a state of mind in which all violence has come to an end there is joy which is very different from the pleasure of violence with its conflicts, hatreds, and fears.
- Where is this passage extracted from?
  - When can one find joy, according to J. Krishnamoorthy?
  - Explain the passage.

- III. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 200 words each. (4 × 5 = 20)
- How is Marji's desire to live an authentic life thwarted?
  - Comment on Marji's relationship with Markus.
  - What is "At the Auction of Ruby Slippers" about?
  - Bring out the social norms projected in "Distant Relations".
  - What is the message conveyed through Night?
  - Discuss Night as a memoir.

SECTION C — (30 marks)

- IV. Write essays on any THREE of the following in 300 words. (3 × 10 = 30)
- What problem does Judith Ortiz Cofer raise in her poem "Latin Women Pray"?
  - Bring out Paul Theroux's experience of the wild life.
  - Discuss *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood and The story of a Return* as graphic fiction.
  - Explore the theme of "Birth Day Girl".
  - "In Night," Elie Wiesel said, "I wanted to show the end, the finality of the event. Everything came to an end—man, history, literature, religion, God." — Has this been done in *Night*? Discuss.