

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 marks)

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

1. Is poetry always worthy when it is old? And it is worthless, then because it's new? Readers decide in your self this be truth False suspend judgment, waiting to told.
2. The hand is tired,
The body is strange.
Drops of perspiration appear on the forehead,
A long line breaks
And the breath is moistened by the
Intermingling odour of birth and death.
3. Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.
Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might.
Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.
And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love.

SECTION B — (35 marks)

- II. Analyse any THREE of the following passages and answer the questions given below: (3 × 5 = 15)
 9. It is a movement which requires to be carefully studied and wisely stimulated, for it may exert a healthy or a pernicious influence on the national character, according to the direction it takes. The popular literature of a nation and the national character act and react on each other. At least in Bengal there has been a singular harmony of character between the two since the days of Vidyapati and Jayadeva.
(a) What does "It" refer to in the first line?
(b) Who is Jayadeva?
(c) Explain the passage.
 10. Of course some of them, and sometimes all them, malingered and shirked. Sometimes I connived at their pranks, but often I was strict with them. I dare say they did not like the strictness, but I do not recollect their having resisted it. Whenever I was strict, I would, by argument, convince them that it was not right to play with one's work. The conviction, would however, be short-lived, the next moment they would again leave their work and go to play.
(a) Whom does "them" refer to here?
(b) What is the meaning of the word 'connive'?
(c) Explain the passage.

4. Dewdrops upon a leaf so green I see;
There was a time when there were tears for me;
But not for me alone they once did flow, Since
tears are wet alike for joy and woe.

5. The darkness of the body spreads like a carpet
On which she reclines obversely.
Plucks its straws
And each part of her body smoulders.
6. I never see you sitting in
Jeta's garden
sitting with eyes closed
in meditation, in the lotus position
7. On this day, the sun
Appeared-no, not slowly over the horizon
But right in the city square.
8. Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards
perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its
way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-
widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my
country awake.

11. The second cause is the absence of sound and intelligent criticism. Intelligent criticism may be said to be a thing unknown to the Native Press. There is some inherent defect in the Bengali character which renders the task of distinguishing the beautiful and the true from the gaudy and the false a task of even greater difficulty than the higher effort of creation. This deficiency in the culture of the cultivated Bengali reacts on the literature.

- (a) What does the absence of sound intelligent criticism cause?
- (b) Give the meaning of the word inherent.
- (c) Explain the above passage in your words.

12. The German translation of *Kalidasa's Shakuntala* was published in 1791. The enthusiasm it aroused, says a latter day American editor of the play, 'is immortalised in Goethe's apostrophe'. He goes on to remind us that *Shakuntala* 'was indeed an inspiration to poets, a thirst for natural colour, for unspoiled emotion, for the exotic, the supernatural, the gracefully wild'.

- (a) Who was Kalidasa?
- (b) What is the meaning of the word 'immortalise'?
- (c) Explain the passage.

13. Interestingly Tawney seems to suggest that the way Iravati the queen of Agnimitra dishes out punishments would prove Mill's wrong, Tawney uses the incident in the play to argue that Mill's commendation of women's equality may not be desirable after all!
- (a) Who was Tawney?
(b) Give the meaning of the word 'commendation'.
(c) Explain the passage.

III. Answer any FOUR of the following questions.

(4 × 5 = 20)

14. Analyse *Tughlaq* as a commentary on the contemporary politics of the 1960s.
15. Examine the plot construction of *Tughlaq*.
16. Consider "Roots" as partition literature.
17. Discuss the significance of the title "The Empty Chest".
18. Explain the myth that the story of *Chemeen* is built on.
19. Write on the society depicted in *Chemeen*.

SECTION C – (30 marks)

- IV. Write essays on any THREE of the following in 300 words.
(3 × 10 = 30)
20. Account for the popularity of Tagore as a poet.
21. What is Dalit literature according to Sharathchanra Mukthibodh?
22. Sketch the character of Tughlaq.
23. Discuss the ingenuity in subaltern resistance in "The Shroud".
24. Explore the theme of the novel *Chemeen*.