

DURATION: 2 ½ HRS

Marks: 75

**NOTE: ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY.
EACH QUESTION CARRIES EQUAL MARKS
MARKS TO THE RIGHT INDICATE FULL MARKS**

Q.1.

A) *Animal Farm* is the study of a dream betrayed. It begins with hope for the animals and ends with their miserable lives getting even worse. To what extent do you agree with these statements? [15]

Ans. About the author in brief

- Old Major's dream
- Dream of Animalism and the 7 Commandments
- Usurping of power by Napoleon
- Napoleon conniving with Man and becoming one with them

OR

B) Throughout the novel, *Animal Farm*, the natural characteristics of each animal figure heavily in their motives and pronouncements. Do you feel that Orwell purposely chose certain types of animals to assume certain roles? [15]

Ans. About the author in brief

- The animals portrayed in the novel – each with a specific behaviour pattern
- The animals as reflective of characters from the Russian Revolution
- Your views, supported with examples, on the role played by each..

OR

C) Analyse Bhisma Sahani's *Tamas* as a socio-political novel. [15]

Ans. About the author and brief background to the story

- Characterisation, setting and tone creating a piece reflective of the politics of partition
- The politics of religion and social tenets which create strife

OR

D) How sensitively does Bhisam Sahni deal with the element of violence in *Tamas*?

[15]

Ans. Brief introduction to the author and the novel

- Characters and the poignant weaving of their life stories against the background of partition
- Politics of religion and how it tears apart the fabric of society
- Specific incidents to support your answer

Q.2. A) In Gabriel Garcia Marquez's short story *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* what are the varied responses of the townspeople to the old man? What do these responses tell us about human behaviour? [8]

Ans. About the author

- Reactions of Elisinda and Pelayo
- Reactions of Fr. Gonzago
- The old neighbour woman and her advice
- How the reactions of the townspeople are reflective of human frailties

B) How does Mrinal Pande overturn the notion of motherhood in her short story *Girls*? [7]

. Ans. About the author

- Central idea of the story
- Expected notions of motherhood
- Motherhood as portrayed in the story – a reflection on the life of a woman in Indian society

OR

Q.2. C) What social commentary is Isabel Allende making in the short story *And of Clay Are We Created*. [8]

Ans. Central idea of the story

- Politicians and their self-serving politics
- Desensitization of the media
- Society as a voyeur of sensational news
- Loss of the humane element in modern society

D) What is setting? How effective is the cafe as the setting in the story *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*? [7]

Ans. Define setting

- What makes the café an appropriate setting in the story
- How it creates mood
- The importance of the words clean, well-lighted in the context of the lives of the characters and the feeling of 'Nada'.

Q.3. A) Critically analyse the poem *Need Ka Nirman Phir Phir*. [8]

. Ans. About the poet in brief

- Central idea of the poem
- Effective use of language

B). How do the soldiers portray the reality of war in Wilfred Owens poem *Strange Meeting*? [7]

Ans. About the author and the background of the poem

- Analysis with specific reference to the metaphors, symbols which portray the truth about war.

OR

C) Critically analyse *The Lie* by Maya Angelou. [8]

Ans. About the poet in brief

- Central idea of the poem
- Effective use of language
- Poem as a dramatic monologue which makes it more effective

D) Discuss the use of imagery in Robert Frost's poem *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.

Ans. About the author and the events in his life when the poem was written

- Symbols within the poem
- Images of snow, woods, the farm house, etc. and their connotative meanings in context of the poem

Q.4.

A) Vijay Tendulkar in his play *Silence! The Court is in Session*, has used the stage as a platform to expose gender discrimination in patriarchy. Discuss. [15]

Ans.

- What defines a play
- Players as the voice of society
- Role of patriarchy in society
- Women as secondary citizens in Indian society

OR

B) Compare and contrast the two women in Vijay Tendulkar's *Silence! The Court is in Session*.

[15]

Ans. About the play in brief

- The characters of Benare and Mrs. Kashikar as two ends of the spectrum
- Each one being subjected to the whims of men
- Benare as a lone voice fighting for her rights
- Mrs. Kashikar typical of conventional values and reflective of the phrase 'Women are their own worst enemies'

OR

C) How is George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* a commentary on class discrimination?

[15]

Ans. About the author

- The new wave of socialism
- Issues of class struggle
- How the central characters overturn the notion of heroism and perfection
- Satire on the Victorian snobbery of class.

OR

D) George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* is subtitled 'An Anti-Romantic Comedy'. In what way is this subtitle appropriate?

[15]

Ans. About the author

- Attack on the concept of the romantic ideal
- Exposition of the hollowness of love and the heroic ideals of war
- Rejection of idealism

Q.5. Write short notes on **any three**:

[15]

- a) Effective use of language to highlight the brutality of cutting a tree in the poem *On Killing a Tree*.
- b) *Need Ka Nirman Phir Phir* as a poem on regeneration
- c) The relevance of insomnia in *A Clean Well-Lighted Place*.
- d) Impact of the ending of the story *And of Clay are we Created*.
- e) Portrayal of Elisenda in the short story *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*.