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6 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 3 (H/NH)

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(June/July)

ENGLISH

(Discipline Specific Elective)

(For Honours and Non-Honours)

Paper : DSC-3

(**Partition Literature**)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

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

UNIT—I

1. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

- (a) Examine how Intizar Hussain's *Basti* captures the protagonist Zakir's intense feeling of nostalgia and displacement in the backdrop of the Partition.

- (b) Elucidate with examples, the motif of strife and loss as it recurs through Intizar Hussain's *Basti*
- (c) Attempt a critical understanding of the narrative technique of Intizar Hussain's *Basti* with special reference to the significance of memory as implicit in the text.
2. Write a short note on any one of the following :
- (a) Metaphorical significance of the character of Sabirah
- (b) Indian mythology as a literary device in *Basti*
- (c) Zakir's disillusionment with the 'new nation'

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UNIT—II

3. Answer any one of the following questions :
- (a) Examine Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines* as an exploration into the issues of national borders and 'partitioning history' in the specific case of India.

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- (b) Elucidate on the contextual significance of the major symbols in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
- (c) Attempt an explanation of the historical events as they inform into the text of Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
4. Write a short note on any one of the following : 5
- (a) Character sketch of either Tha'mma or Ila
- (b) Theme of Partition in *The Shadow Lines*

UNIT—III

5. Answer any one of the following questions : 15
- (a) Analyze critically the metaphorical significance of the 'House' in Dibyendu Palit's *Alam's Own House*. How does the writer bring out the pain of 'exile' and 'belonging' in the story?
- (b) Can you read Manik Bandopadhyay's *The Final Solution* as a story that rejects gendered roles in the backdrop of the Partition? Elucidate.

- (c) Attempt a critique of the representation of the 'madhouse' in *Toba Tek Singh* as symbolic of a microcosm of the nation at large.

Or

Do you consider Lalithambika Antharjanam's *A Leaf in the Storm* as a story of violence, survival and recovery? Explain with examples from the text.

6. Attempt a short analysis of any one of the following, with reference to your prescribed texts :

- (a) The violated female body in the Partition
(b) Trope of madness in Partition Literature
(c) Homelessness and exile

UNIT—IV

7. Answer any one of the following questions :

- (a) Identify and elucidate the note of optimism in Faiz Ahmad Faiz's *For Your Lanes, My Country*. Do you consider the poem to be too idealistic given the grave circumstances of the Partition?

- (b) Discuss how Jibanananda Das's poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal* records the loss of a land recreated through a complex set of imagery.
- (c) "There are some more partitions to be done that partition was only the first one."

In the light of the quoted lines, explain how partition is a continuous process in the subcontinent.

8. Explain, with reference to the context, any one of the following : 5

(a) For Love of Bengal's rivers, fields, crops,
I'll come this way
To this sad green shore of Bengal,
drenched by the Jalangi's waves.

(b) This is how people fight oppression,
their ritual isn't new, nor are my ways new.
This is how we always grew flowers in fire,
their defeat isn't new, our victory isn't new.

(c) I've to locate that mad fellow
Who used to speak up from a branch
high above :
"He's god—
He alone has to decide—whose village to
whose side."
