

5 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 2 (H)

2024

(November)

ENGLISH

(Discipline Specific Elective)

(For Honours)

Paper : DSE-2

(Literature of the Indian Diaspora)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

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

UNIT—I

1. "M. G. Vassanji explores trauma of displacement and quest for identity in his *The Book of Secrets*". Elucidate. 15

Or

"It is a story about hidden relationships, innermost secrets, and assimilation of various cultures." How far is it applicable to M. G. Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*?

Or

Critically analyze the significance of the title of M. G. Vassanji's novel, *The Book of Secrets*?

2. Sketch the character of any one of the following : 5
- (a) Corbin
 - (b) Mariamu
 - (c) Pius Fernandes

UNIT—II

3. How does *A Fine Balance* explore the theme of survival amidst the political and social upheavals of 1970s India? Discuss how the characters' struggles for survival shape their identities and relationships. 15

Or

Explore the roles of women in *A Fine Balance*. How do Dina Dalal's experiences reflect the challenges faced by women in a patriarchal society? How does her character challenge or conform to these societal norms?

Or

In what ways does *A Fine Balance* address issues of human dignity and social justice? How do the characters navigate a society that often dehumanizes them, and what does the novel suggest about the possibility of achieving justice?

4. Answer any one of the following : 5
- (a) Examine how Mistry portrays poverty in *A Fine Balance*. How does poverty affect the characters' choices, relationships, and sense of dignity?

- (b) Sketch the character of Maneck.
- (c) Discuss the role of friendship in *A Fine Balance*.

UNIT—III

5. How does *Anita and Me* explore the theme of cultural identity and the struggle for belonging? Discuss how Meena's dual heritage influences her sense of self and her relationships with others. 15

Or

Discuss the significance of Meena's friendship with Anita in the novel. How does this relationship influence Meena's development, and what does it reveal about the complexities of childhood friendships?

Or

Anita and Me is often described as a coming-of-age novel. How does Meera Syal depict Meena's journey from childhood to adolescence? What challenges does Meena face, and how do they contribute to her growth?

6. Answer any one of the following : 5
- (a) How does Anita express her defiance against societal and familial expectations?
 - (b) In what ways does Meena feel torn between her Indian heritage and British upbringing?

- (c) Describe the role of Meena's grandmother, Nanima, in her life.

UNIT—IV

7. Examine the theme of loneliness in *The Namesake*. How do the characters experience and cope with loneliness, particularly in the context of cultural and geographical displacement? 15

Or

Analyze the theme of cultural displacement in *The Namesake*. How do Ashoke and Ashima navigate their lives as immigrants in America, and how does their experience differ from that of their children?

Or

Discuss the significance of the title, *The Namesake*. How does the novel's exploration of names and naming reflect broader themes of identity, heritage, and the search for self?

8. Answer any one of the following : 5
- (a) Why does Gogol decide to change his name to Nikhil, and what does this change symbolize?
- (b) Describe the impact of Ashoke's death on Gogol's understanding of his heritage.
- (c) How do Gogol's romantic relationships reflect his struggle with his cultural identity?

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