

2023

ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-5036

(Literature of the Indian Diaspora)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions : $1 \times 10 = 10$

(a) Where is the novel, *The Book of Secrets* set?

(b) What is the name of Mariamu and Pipa's son?

(c) What is the profession of Om and Ishvar?

(d) When was the novel, *Anita and Me* first published?

(e) Who is the protagonist in *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri?

- (f) In Meera Syal's novel, *Anita and Me*, how old is Meena at the start of the novel's action?
- (g) How does Ashoke Ganguli die?
- (h) Who is the narrator of the novel, *The Book of Secrets*?
- (i) Who was supposed to choose Gogol's name?
- (j) "God is a giant quiltmaker...the quilt is grown so big and confusing, the pattern is impossible to see, the squares and diamonds and triangles don't fit well together anymore, it's all become meaningless. So He has abandoned it."
Where do these lines occur?

2. Give very brief answer to the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) Name the two lady missionaries in *The Book of Secrets*.
- (b) Why is Pipa arrested by the English?
- (c) How did Meena break her leg?
- (d) Why has Rohinton Mistry chosen not to mention the name of the Prime Minister in *A Fine Balance*?
- (e) Why does the name 'Gogol' have special meaning for Ashoke?

3. Answer/Write short notes on any *four* of the following : 5×4=20

- (a) Delineation of the Asian-African diaspora in *The Book of Secrets*
- (b) Forced sterilization programme as reflected in the novel, *A Fine Balance*
- (c) Dichotomy between expectations and reality in *Anita and Me*
- (d) Use of symbols in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*
- (e) How is Dukhi's family punished for turning cobblers into tailors?
- (f) Give a character portrayal of Anita Rutter.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 10×4=40

- (a) Do you agree that personal and public histories overlap in MG Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*? Give a reasoned answer.
- (b) Critically comment on the significance of the title of Vassanji's novel, *The Book of Secrets*.

- (c) Does *A Fine Balance* show people's vulnerability or their fortitude? Substantiate your answer citing references from the text.
- (d) How does Rohinton Mistry deal with the emergency and politics in *A Fine Balance*?
- (e) Would you consider *Anita and Me* as a novel about a character growing up? Discuss in the light of the changes that Meena undergoes in the course of the narrative.
- (f) Examine the importance of culture in Meera Syal's *Anita and Me*.
- (g) Prepare an extensive note on how Jhumpa Lahiri represents diaspora cultures in *The Namesake*.
- (h) How is the theme of identity reflected in the novel, *The Namesake*? In what ways do you agree or disagree with Lahiri's explanations of identity?

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