

2024

ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-5026

(Modern Indian Writing in English Translation)

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) Who are Ghisu and Madhav?
- (b) What do you think the 'void' signifies in Muktibodh's poem, *The Void*?
- (c) What does the speaker lament in the poem, *I Say unto Waris Shah*?
- (d) Which powerful weapon is released by Ashwatthama?
- (e) What does the black night signify in *'Light, Oh Where is the Light?'*
- (f) Who is Shyambandhu in *Rebati*?

(2)

- (g) How much cash was Ghisu able to collect for the funeral rites?
- (h) In *The Land of the Half-Humans*, what do the women look like?
- (i) What kind of work did Budhiya do?
- (j) In what language was Chughtai's story, *The Quilt* originally written?

2. Answer the following questions : $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) Who was Waris Shah? Why did Amrita Pritam invoke Shah?
- (b) "Leaves of our blood-stained epics fly in our flight." Why does Muktibodh allude to epics?
- (c) How do Ghisu and Madhav justify their actions at the end of the story?
- (d) Why does the poet say that the jaws of the void have 'carnivorous teeth'?
- (e) Why does the narrator compare showing compassion to Ghisu and Madhav to dying a black blanket?

3. Answer any four of the following questions : $5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) Critically comment on the structure of the poem, *So Very Far*.

(3)

- (b) Briefly discuss the significance of Ashwatthama's metamorphosis in *Andha Yug*.
- (c) Explain the theme of Partition in *I Say unto Waris Shah*.
- (d) Write a short note on the significance of the title, *The Shroud*.
- (e) Write a brief note on the themes explored in Bhabendranath Saikia's short story, *Celebration*.
- (f) Comment on the theme of oppression in the story, *The Quilt*.

4. Answer the following questions : $10 \times 4 = 40$

- (a) In *The Shroud*, Premchand re-examines the much-romanticised benefits of 'honest hard work' in a caste-ridden society. Discuss.

Or

Andha Yug depicts the loss of moral values in contemporary times through a symbolic treatment of characters and situations from the *Mahabharata*. Discuss.

- (b) Write a critical appreciation of Amrita Pritam's *I Say unto Waris Shah* with reference to the gendered nature of violence during the Partition of India.

Or

Discuss how the poems of Ibopishak offer a critique of the political corruption and social unrest in contemporary Manipur.

- (c) How does the story, *Rebati* depict the plight of the women in 18th century Odisha? Answer with suitable illustrations from the text.

Or

Write a note on the character of Begum Jaan.

- (d) Critically examine Tagore's spiritual quest with reference to the prescribed poems.

Or

"Muktibodh's *The Void* uses a number of images to bring out the psychological disturbance of the speaker." Discuss.

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