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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 as directed : 1×10=10

*(a) Who is Pipa in **The Book of Secrets**?*

*(b) The diary entries in **The Book of Secrets**
stop abruptly in the year ____.*

(Fill in the blank)

*(c) Name the Indian diasporic community
mentioned in **The Book of Secrets**.*

*(d) Who is the only bachelor mentioned in
Chapter 3 of **Anita and Me**?*

*(e) Meena resisted all her mother's attempt
to teach her—What is it that Meena's
mother wanted to teach her?*

(2)

- (f) As a child, what was Maneck's favourite day of the week?
- (g) Who is Maxine?
- (h) *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry is set during the _____ in 1975-77 in India.
- (i) What does Ashoke give to Gogol for his fourteenth birthday?
- (j) Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli were born in _____.

(Fill in the blank)

2. Give very brief answers to the following questions : $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) Why was Mariamu's marriage strained after the birth of her son?
- (b) What did Mr. Christmas's death remind Meena's parents of?
- (c) Why didn't Meena's parents have a shrine in their home?
- (d) How is Ashima affected by Ashoke's death?
- (e) Who is Nusswan?

(3)

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

$5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) What is the significance of the title, *The Book of Secrets*?
- (b) How did the children in the novel, *Anita and Me* get exposed to the forbidden secrets of the adult world?
- (c) How does Daljit and Shyam's relation portray the meaning of love and marital bliss for Meena?
- (d) How does Dina's position within her family reflect the position of women in her culture and social class?
- (e) Comment on Ashima's feeling of alienation in *The Namesake*.
- (f) Analyze, in your own words, Rohinton Mistry's take on the Emergency as revealed in the narrative of *A Fine Balance*.

4. Answer any four of the following questions :

$10 \times 4 = 40$

- (a) Analyze *The Book of Secrets* as an Indian diasporic novel. Give illustrations from your reading of the novel.

- (b) Critically comment on the fragmented nature of history in Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*.
- (c) Discuss how the individual is affected by the larger socio-political changes in the public sphere in *A Fine Balance*.
- (d) "The novel gives us a vivid picture of life for members of the untouchable caste in remote villages." Elucidate the statement in the light of your reading of *A Fine Balance*.
- (e) Critically evaluate the Meena-Sam lowbridge relationship in *Anita and Me*.
- (f) How does Meena deal with cultural hybridity and identity crisis in the novel, *Anita and Me*?
- (g) Make an assessment of Gogol's identity crisis and his transformation in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*.
- (h) "Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* explores the experiences of second-generation Indian immigrants in the United States." Give a well-reasoned answer in the light of this statement.

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