

2025

ENGLISH

( Honours Elective )

Paper : ENG-HE-6036

( Partition Literature )

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

- (c) Discuss Jibanananda Das' *I Shall Return to This Bengal* as a wishful longing for a lost home.
- (d) Comment on the use of irony in Gulzar's poem, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (e) Do you consider Lalithambika Antharjanam's *A Leaf in the Storm* as a story of violence, survival and recovery? Illustrate with examples from the text.
- (f) Discuss how Saadat Hasan Manto depicts the psychological trauma of the partition through the predicament of Bishan Singh in his story, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (g) "...Alam had realized that man's continuity survived in his blood, not in his address." Does this realization persist in Alam throughout the story, *Alam's Own House*? Discuss.
- (h) "Am I weak just because I'm a woman?" Attempt a character sketch of Mallika in the light of her question in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *The Final Solution*.

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1. Answer the following as directed : 1×10=10
- (a) Who is Pandit Hardayal's son?
- (b) Where did Khalah Jan live with her husband?
- (c) "As for me, I was born here, and I will die here." Who says this in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (d) Where in Dhaka did Anantashekhhar have his house?
- (e) How much milk did Ramlochan bring to Mallika?

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- (f) Who came to meet Bishan Singh in the asylum before the exchange of lunatics?
- (g) What is the full name of Jyoti?
- (h) "I live in imagined days and nights,  
I exist in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prison walls."  
(Fill in the blank)
- (i) Name the collection of poems in which Jibanananda Das' poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal* is included.
- (j) What is the pen name of Sampooran Singh Kalra?
2. Answer the following questions :  $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (a) What did Raka write in her last letter to Alam?
- (b) Who were the members of 'Help and Welfare Society'? Why did they descend on Mallika's 'Mattress kingdom'?
- (c) What does Faiz imply by 'stray dogs' in *For Your Lanes, My Country*?
- (d) What did the doctor speak, like a Vedantin, to Jyoti?
- (e) Who came to meet Zakir's Abba Jan every day?

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3. Answer any *four* of the following :  $5 \times 4 = 20$
- (a) Critically comment on the title of Intizar Hussain's novel, *Basti*.
- (b) Briefly discuss the relevance of cartography in *The Shadow Lines*.
- (c) How does Mallika, in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *The Final Solution*, represent the condition of women after the partition?
- (d) Comment briefly on Jyoti's attitude to motherhood as depicted in *A Leaf in the Storm*.
- (e) Show how the anxieties and hopes of Faiz Ahmed Faiz are reflected in the poem, *For Your Lanes, My Country*.
- (f) Comment on Jibanananda Das' use of symbols and images in his poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal*.
4. Answer any *four* of the following :  $10 \times 4 = 40$
- (a) Would you consider *Basti* to be a moving narrative on the feeling of loss of homeland and the self?
- (b) Discuss how the notions of identity, selfhood and nation are wrapped around each other in *The Shadow Lines*.