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2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG0600304

(North-East Indian Literature)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

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

1. Answer the following as directed : 1×8=8

(a) Who is the poet of *Forest–1987* ?

(b) In the poem *Native Land*, the poet talks of losing his 'tenuous humanity', by which he means a state where the essential qualities of being human are

(i) weak and fragile

(ii) strong

(iii) robust

(iv) tough

(Choose the correct option)

(c) How does the poet describe the flute player?

(d) According to Mamang Dai, in the language of Adis the word 'Pensam' means

(i) the middle ground or the hidden spaces of the heart

(ii) the narrow boat that we call life

(iii) the remote village in Arunachal Pradesh

(iv) the land of the dawn lit mountains

(Choose the correct option)

(e) Who is the protagonist of *No Land Is Her Land* ?

(f) How did Kuhila Bai's son die?

(g) Who is the narrator of the story, *An Old Man Remembers* ?

(h) Where did the narrator meet Nilotpal at the beginning of the story *Gogoponti Lakratua* ?

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2. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 2×6=12

(a) According to the poem *Forest–1987,* what familiar sounds does the speaker miss?

(b) What, according to Nongkynrih, are the morning sounds of home?

(c) What does the poet dream of while listening to the flute player?

(d) Why did the people banish Pinyar, the widow, after her house caught fire?

(e) Which is the native place of the protagonist of the story *No Land Is Her Land* ? Where did she take refuge?

(f) What does the old man's neighbour inform Sashi about his friend Imlikokba?

(g) After the death of her husband, how did Kuhila Bai manage to survive with her son?

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(h) Why was the narrator surprised to see Nilotpal?

(i) Why did Nilotpal go to the bank?

(j) Name two important female characters of *The Legends of Pensam*, and mention one defining trait of each.

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) The *Madhavi* flower's fragrance is described as escaping 'the rustle of spring air' only to be overcome by gunpowder. Analyse this image as a representation of nature's vulnerability in the face of human conflict as presented in the poem, *Forest-1987*.

(b) How does the poem *Native Land* depict the suffering faced by the native Manipuri people and also their unwavering endurance in the face of ethnic or political conflict?

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(c) Discuss the impact of modernity on the Adi community as depicted in *The Legends of Pensam*.

(d) How does the story *An Old Man Remembers* portray the effects of war on families?

(e) "Exile and displacement are key themes of *No Land Is Her Land*." Critically comment.

(f) What does the title *An Old Man Remembers* suggest about the narrative perspective of the story? Who is remembering, and from what point in time? 3+2=5

(g) Critically analyse Kuhila Bai's role in the story *Celebration*.

(h) Make a character assessment of Nilotpal. How is the diversity of his personality reflected in the story *Gogoponti Lakratua* ?

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) "Like the rooster, I too, seem/to have become obsolete." How does Nongkynrih present his concern at the fast-decaying tribal culture in the face of modernisation and the resultant cultural loss and emptiness for which he feels obsolete?

(b) Examine the theme of identity in *The Legends of Pensam*. How do the characters navigate their personal and cultural identities? 5+5=10

(c) What does the title of the story *Celebration* signify?

(d) "*No Land Is Her Land* focuses on the identity crisis of a woman who never feels she belongs anywhere." Discuss.

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(e) How does the story *An Old Man Remembers* reflect the "universal themes of reflection and the enduring influence of the past on the present"? Do you think the old man's memories are a source of strength, pain, or both? Justify your answer with reference to the text. 2+8=10

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