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2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG0600404

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

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

Answer the questions from *any* **one** Option

OPTION—A

Paper : ENG0600404A

(Indian Writing)

1. Answer the following questions in *one* word : 1×8=8

(a) To which city does Muhammad bin Tughlaq shift his capital?

(b) What system of landholding is satirized in *Six Acres and a Third*?

(c) In *The Old Playhouse*, what institution is primarily critiqued?

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(d) In *Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher*, what activity is compared to the act of writing poetry?

(e) What is the name of the protagonist of the novel, *The English Teacher*?

(f) In the short story, *The Weed*, what is the name of Angoori's old husband?

(g) Where did the commotion break out in the short story, *Shah Jahan and His Private Army*?

(h) Fill in the blank :

The inert bats were suspended
Behind the string of _____ shops.

2. Give short answers to the following questions (any *six*) : 2×6=12

(a) In Keki N. Daruwalla's *Wolf*, what psychological state does the recurring image of the wolf evoke in the speaker?

(b) Who is Hazu and what role does he play in the text he appears in?

(c) Why does the father decide to cut down the banyan tree in Dilip Chitre's *The Felling of the Banyan Tree*?

(d) Who is Susila? What is her role in Krishna's life?

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(e) In Amrita Pritam's *The Weed*, what does the weed ultimately suggest about the condition of women?

(f) What major political decision taken by Muhammad bin Tughlaq leads to chaos in Girish Karnad's *Tughlaq*?

(g) Why was Angoori's union with her husband postponed for five years?

(h) What is the role of memory in the poem, *The Felling of the Banyan Tree*?

(i) Name any two well-known poems written by Kamala Das.

(j) Mention any two important themes commonly found in Ezekiel's poetry.

3. Answer the following questions briefly (any *four*) : 5×4=20

(a) Attempt a character sketch of Angoori.

(b) Explain with reference to the context :

The wolves have been slaughtered now.
A hedge of smoking gun-barrels
rings my daughter's dreams.

(c) How does *The Felling of the Banyan Tree* represent a conflict between tradition and modernity in Chitre's poem?

(d) How does Gangopadhyay use humour to portray the personality of Shah Jahan in his story?

(e) Examine the symbolic significance of bats in Nabakanta Barua's poem.

(f) How does Amrita Pritam's story, *The Weed* critique social customs and gender inequality?

(g) How does Narayan depict the theme of love and loss in *The English Teacher*?

(h) Comment on the roles of Bhagia and Saria in Senapati's *Six Acres and a Third.*

4. Answer the following essay-type questions (any *two*) : 10×2=20

(a) Analyze the role of religion in *Tughlaq.* How does the play portray the manipulation of faith for political ends?

(b) Critically analyze the spiritual journey of Krishna in *The English Teacher.* How does R. K. Narayan portray the transition from material life to spiritual awakening?

(c) Examine the character of Ramachandra Mangaraj as a representation of feudal power and moral decay in *Six Acres and a Third.* How does Senapati construct his rise and fall?

(d) Discuss Nissim Ezekiel's contribution to modern Indian English poetry with special reference to *Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher.* How does the poem reflect the shift from romanticism to modernist discipline in Indian English verse?

(e) Discuss Kamala Das as a confessional poet in Indian English literature. How do her poems challenge conventional notions of femininity, sexuality and marriage?

OPTION—B

Paper : ENG0600404B

(American Literature)

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) For how many years did Rip Van Winkle fall asleep?

(b) What is the tone of the poem, *Dear John Wayne*?

(c) Who is the writer of the poem, *Heaven*?

(d) What is the poem, *Cavalry Crossing a Ford* about?

(e) Who is the speaker in the poem, *Vigil Strange I kept on the Field One Night*?

(f) When did Hurston feel 'most coloured'?

(g) Who is the protagonist of the novel, *The Underground Railroad*?

(h) Which event does the graphic novel, *In the Shadow of No Towers* focus on?

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

(a) How does Whitman describe the scene of the *Cavalry Crossing a Ford*?

(b) What is the central theme of the poem, *How It Feels to be Coloured Me*?

(c) How does the poet use sensory details in the poem, *Heaven*?

(d) What is the significance of John Wayne in the poem, *Dear John Wayne*?

(e) What was the 'last look' exchanged between the two men in the poem, *Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night*?

(Continued)

(f) What does Hurston mean by saying she is not 'typically coloured'?

(g) What dual narratives does Spiegelman weave together in the graphic novel, *In the Shadow of No Towers*?

(h) What is the main theme of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*?

(i) What symbolic role does Hudson River play in the story, *Rip Van Winkle*?

(j) What is the speaker's attitude towards John Wayne in the poem, *Dear John Wayne*?

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

(a) Analyze the significance of *The Underground Railroad* in the context of American history.

(b) How does Hurston's essay, *How It Feels to be Coloured Me* challenge or reinforce dominant narratives of racial identity?

(c) Examine the themes of movement and transition in Whitman's poem, *Cavalry Crossing a Ford*.

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(d) Analyze how Spiegelman uses visual narrative techniques to convey the trauma of 9/11 in *In the Shadow of No Towers*.

(e) How does the poet use the concept of 'Heaven' as a metaphor for the speaker's desires and memories?

(f) Discuss the significance of the title, *Dear John Wayne* and its relation to the poem's themes and tone.

(g) Discuss the portrayal of slavery and its impact on individuals in the novel, *The Underground Railroad*.

(h) How does Rip Van Winkle's character reflect the theme of identity and belonging?

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

(a) Discuss the ways in which Zora Neale Hurston navigates her identity as a black woman in *How It Feels to be Coloured Me*.

(b) How does Whitman's poem, *Cavalry Crossing a Ford* reflect his views on war and humanity?

(c) Discuss the use of historical and cultural references in *In the Shadow of No Towers*. What do they add to the narrative? 6+4=10

(d) Discuss the elements of fantasy and folklore in *Rip Van Winkle*. How do they contribute to the story's themes and meaning? 5+5=10

(e) Discuss the themes of identity, culture and belonging in *Heaven*. How does the poet explore these themes through the speaker's experiences? 5+5=10

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OPTION—C

Paper : ENG0600404C

(Shakespeare)

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) When and where was Shakespeare born?

(b) What is the acting company with which Shakespeare was associated?

(c) How many Sonnets did Shakespeare write?

(d) Who is the writer of the novel, *Ophelia*?

(e) When was Hogarth–Shakespeare Project launched?

(f) To which tradition of play does Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus* belong?

(g) What is the title of 2016 Film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Richard III*?

(h) Who is the king of Scotland at the beginning of the play, *Macbeth*?

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

(a) Why is Shakespeare called the 'Bard of Avon'?

(b) Name any two famous tragedies written by Shakespeare.

(c) What is the importance of Globe Theatre in Shakespeare's career?

(d) What is the structure of a Shakespearean Sonnet?

(e) What is *Vinegar Girl* about?

(f) Who is the 'dark lady'?

(g) Who is Puck in the play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

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(h) Who are the four young lovers in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*?

(i) What happens to Lady Macbeth at the end of the play, *Macbeth*?

(j) What is the central idea of Shakespeare's Sonnet 137?

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

(a) Why are Shakespeare's plays adapted into Novels?

(b) How does the Film adaptations help in modernizing Shakespeare's plays?

(c) What role do the Witches play in *Macbeth*?

(d) What is the significance of the dagger scene in *Macbeth*?

(e) Explain the significance of the forest in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

(f) How does Shakespeare present love in Sonnet 141?

(g) Comment on the use of nature imagery in Sonnet 18.

(c) What is postmodern narrative technique?

(d) Write two features of contemporary literature.

(e) Write a short note on alienation in contemporary writing.

(f) Briefly comment on memory as a theme in *Station Eleven.*

(g) Write on two features of contemporary poetry in short.

(h) Mention two global concerns in contemporary writing.

(i) What do you mean by social 'values' in contemporary writing?

(j) What is identity crisis?

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

(a) Discuss social change in *Please Look After Mom.*

(b) Mention five features of contemporary drama.

(c) Analyze the character of Catherine in *Proof.*

(*Continued*)

(d) Discuss gender issues in contemporary literature.

(e) Briefly estimate Simon Armitage as a poet.

(f) Discuss trauma in *Station Eleven.*

(g) Examine multiculturalism in contemporary writing.

(h) Critically appreciate one contemporary poem from your syllabus.

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

(a) Discuss *Station Eleven* as a post-apocalyptic novel reflecting modern anxieties.

(b) Discuss the aptness of the title 'Heroes'.

(c) Discuss the major characteristics of contemporary writing with examples.

(d) Analyze *Proof* as psychological drama dealing with genius and inheritance.

(e) Discuss identity, ethics and alienation in contemporary literature with reference to prescribed texts.

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