

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College affiliated to University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.Sc. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MARCH 2022

FIRST YEAR [BATCH 2021-24]

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Paper : I

Date : 03/03/2022

Time : 12 noon – 2 pm

Full Marks : 50

Group A

1. Answer **any five** of the following questions: [5×2]
 - i) How did the narrator describe his journey to the village school in Khushwant Singh's 'The Portrait of a Lady'?
 - ii) How did the grandmother react when the narrator started taking music lessons in Khushwant Singh's 'The Portrait of a Lady'?
 - iii) How does the poet describe the funeral pyre in 'Dawn at Puri'?
 - iv) What is the significance of the 'skull' metaphor in the poem 'Dawn at Puri'?
 - v) In K.A. Abbas' short story, 'Sparrows', How did Rahim Khan react when he discovered the nest in his hut?
 - vi) What was Rahim Khan's ambition as a young man?
 - vii) What is the significance of the repetition "I rise/I rise/I rise." at the end of Maya Angelou's poem 'Still I Rise'?
2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: [4×5]
 - i) How are the widows described in Jayanta Mahapatra's poem, 'Dawn at Puri'?
 - ii) In K.A. Abbas' short story, 'Sparrows', why did Rahim Khan treat wife and children cruelly?
 - iii) In Khushwant Singh's short story, 'The Portrait of a Lady', how did the grandmother adjust herself to the contours of city life?
 - iv) Comment on the significance of the title of Maya Angelou's poem, 'Still I Rise'.
 - v) How does the narrator resist her oppressors in Maya Angelou's poem, 'Still I Rise'?

Group B

3. In response to an employment advertisement published in *The Telegraph*, write an application along with your Curriculum Vitae, offering your candidature for the post of Project Assistant for an NGO working for animal welfare., based in 136 MG Road, Kolkata 700036, West Bengal. (10)

Group C

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in your own words.

At age 20, with two books published, Neruda had already become one of the best-known Chilean poets. He abandoned his French studies and began to devote himself entirely to poetry. Three more books appeared in quick succession: *Attempt of the Infinite Man* (1926); *Rings* (1926), in collaboration with Tomás Lago; and *The Enthusiastic Sling-shooter* (1933). Yet his poetry was not a steady source of income, so he translated hastily from several languages and published magazine and newspaper articles. Neruda's future looked uncertain without a steady job, so he managed to get himself appointed honorary consul to Rangoon in Burma. For the next five years he represented his country in Asia. He continued to live in abject poverty, however, since as honorary consul he received no salary, and he was tormented by loneliness. From Rangoon Neruda moved to Colombo in Ceylon. He increasingly came to identify with the South Asian masses, who were heirs to ancient cultures but were downtrodden by poverty, colonial rule, and political oppression. It was during these years in Asia that he wrote *Residence on Earth* (1933). In this book Neruda moves beyond the lucid, conventional lyricism of *Twenty Love Poems*. His personal and collective anguish gives rise to nightmarish visions of disintegration, chaos, decay, and death that he recorded in a cryptic, difficult style inspired by Surrealism. These puzzling and mysterious poems both attract and repel the reader with the powerful and awe-inspiring vision they present of a modern descent into hell. In 1930 Neruda was named consul in Batavia (modern Jakarta), which was then the capital of the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). There he fell in love with a Dutch woman, Maria Antonieta Hagenaar, and married her. In 1932 Neruda returned to Chile, but he still could not earn a living from his poetry. In 1933 he was appointed Chilean consul in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There he met the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca, who at that time was traveling in Argentina and who was to become a close friend and an enthusiastic defender of Neruda's poetry.

- i) What did Neruda do ensure a steady source of income? (2)
- ii) Who is Maria Antonieta Hagenaar? (2)
- iii) What impact did the Asian experience have on Neruda poetry? (3)
- iv) Where did Neruda meet Lorca? What kind of a relation did they share? (3)

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