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ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-6036

(Partition Literature)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer any *ten* of the following as directed :

1×10=10

(a) Who is the author of *The Other Side of Silence* ?

(b) Who was the Chairman of the Boundary Commission constituted on 30th June, 1947?

- (c) In which village in undivided India did Zakir spend his childhood?
- (d) During which movement did Zakir as a student observe demonstrations?
- (e) Zakir was a professor of _____.
(Fill in the blank)
- (f) Why were Tridib's parents always away in his childhood?
- (g) "Once you start moving you never stop."
Who is the speaker of the above line in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (h) "I want to live in neither Hindustan nor Pakistan ... I'd rather live on this _____."
(Fill in the blank)
- (i) Name the friend who comes to visit Bishan Singh in the asylum.
- (j) In which language was *A Leaf in the Storm* originally written?

- (k) Where did the exchange of women take place in *A Leaf in the Storm*?
- (l) Name any one river mentioned in the poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal*.
- (m) Since which year had Raka's family started settling in different places in India?
- (n) Why does Alam think he had roots in Calcutta?
- (o) Who does the poet Gulzar want to meet at the border?
2. Answer any *five* of the following questions :
2×5=10
- (a) What is 'hizrat'?
- (b) Name the two parts that the novel, *The Shadow Lines* is divided into.
- (c) What did Alam's Baba do on the day of the crossing of the border?

- (d) What final solution does Mallika adopt?
- (e) What did the lunatic do after climbing the tree?
- (f) What would Bishan Singh do when it was time for his relatives and friends to visit him?
- (g) How does the poet express his desire to be reborn in Bengal?
- (h) How does Faiz Ahmed Faiz use the imagery of the beloved to depict love for his country?

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Analyze the character of Sabirah.
- (b) How did Alam's Baba explain the idea of Partition to the compounder?
- (c) According to Feroze, what kind of differences are there between India and Bangladesh?

- (d) Describe how Mallika's dispossessed family spent their days at the railway station.
- (e) Show how the landscape of Bengal has shaped the poetic sensibility of Jibanananda Das.
- (f) How do the lunatics voice out their trauma at the idea of Partition?
- (g) Comment on the ending of Manto's story, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (h) Describe how the poem, *For Your Lanes, My Country* speaks of a strong commitment towards country.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) Discuss how Partition literature engages with the issues of identity, home and memory.
- (b) Examine critically Intizar Hussain's depiction of pre-Partition and post-Partition life in the novel, *Basti*.

Or

Discuss how Hussain dramatizes the psychological costs of loss of one's homeland and the resultant sense of alienation.

- (c) Critically comment on the title of the novel, *The Shadow Lines*.

Or

Discuss the idea of lines, maps and borders as presented in *The Shadow Lines*.

- (d) Discuss why the historical divide cannot be bridged in Dibyendu Palit's *Alam's Own House*.
- (e) Manto uses the motif of insanity to question the rationality of Partition that resulted in unprecedented suffering. Discuss with reference to *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (f) Examine *Toba Tek Singh* as a story of resistance.

- (g) Show how Gulzar uses his poetic imagination and adapts Manto's story, *Toba Tek Singh* to tell that the ordeal of Partition still continues.
- (h) Examine the women's experience during Partition with special reference to *The Final Solution* and *A Leaf in the Storm*.
