

2014

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : 5.6

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions very briefly :

1×7=7

- (a) Name the two countries that provide the milieu for the story to unfold in *Fasting, Feasting*.
- (b) Who is the real father of Barbara Ausley (daughter of Grace Ausley) in Edith Wharton's short story, *Roman Fever*?
- (c) Which famous event does Helen Maria Williams refer to in *Letters Written in France*?
- (d) Which religion does Galethebege embrace in Bessie Head's short story, *Heaven is not Closed*?

(e) How many children does Father X. D' Souza's wife bear him?

(f) Which traumatic event that took place six years ago does the protagonist attempt to grapple with in Katherine Mansfield's *The Fly*?

(g) What does the father work as in Mamta Kalia's *Tribute to Papa*?

2. Give very short answer to the following questions : $2 \times 4 = 8$

(a) Why does Alida Slade resent Grace Ausley so much in Wharton's *Roman Fever*?

(b) How does Sujata Bhatt describe the peacock in her poem with the same title?

(c) What is the implication of the silence of the mother ('the pillar's wife') in Eunice de Souza's *Catholic Mother*?

(d) What, according to Ralokae, have the Christian Missionaries done to the Setswana people in Bessie Head's *Heaven is not Closed*?

3. Give short answers to the following questions (any three) : $5 \times 3 = 15$

(a) Explain the following with reference to the context :

Who cares for you, Papa?

Who cares for your clean thoughts, clean words, clean teeth?

Who wants to be an angel like you?

Who wants it?

You are an unsuccessful man, Papa.

Couldn't wangle a cozy place in the world.

You have always lived a life of

limited dreams.

Or

And if you look up in time

You might see the peacock turning away
as he gathers his tail

To shut those dark glowing eyes,

Violet fringed with golden amber.

It is the tail that has to blink

For eyes that are always open.

(b) Write a short note on Ralokae in Bessie Head's *Heaven is not Closed*.

(c) Critically comment on Mansfield's use of the fly as a symbol in her short story.

(d) How does Frances Burney respond to the aristocratic women writers attending Mrs. Paradise's party as the former's 'sister authoresses'? How does it reflect Burney's own appraisal of herself as a writer?

- (e) Why does Anita Desai use Uma and her younger sister Aruna, as foils for each other in *Fasting, Feasting*? What does it indicate regarding Indian society?

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

10×3=30

- (a) Write a critical note on Anita Desai's use of the trope of food in order to explore the condition of women in society (whether in the East or the West).
- (b) Discuss the manner in which Indian English women poets use poetry as a potent vehicle through which to critique society in India and its attitudes towards women. Illustrate with particular references from the poetry of Eunice de Souza and Mamta Kalia.
- (c) Examine the use of the highly personal and private forms of the letter and the diary in order to explore one's subjectivity by women with particular references to the letters and diary of Frances Burney, Helen Maria Williams and Alice James.
- (d) How does Bessie Head depict the conflict between traditional Setswana culture and new Western cultural and religious practices in *Heaven is not Closed*? What do you think is her position regarding this conflict in Botswana?

- (e) Analyse Wharton's *Roman Fever* as a critique of conventional social norms/ strictures and morality with adequate illustrations from the text.
