

Total No. of Printed Pages—4

**5 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 2 (H)**

**2 0 2 3**

( November )

**ENGLISH**

( Discipline Specific Elective )

( For Honours )

Paper : DSE-2

**( Literature of the Indian Diaspora )**

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

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

**UNIT—I**

1. Answer any one of the following : 15

(a) "M. G. Vassanji's novel, *The Book of Secrets* withholds many secrets, articulating a complex post-colonial vision while refusing closure on any number of issues, including its own narrative."

Do you agree? Justify your answer.

( 2 )

(b) "Sir, what is history?" asks Feroz to his teacher Pius Fernandes in *The Book of Secrets*.

How far do you think that M. G. Vassanji is concerned with finding an answer to this question?

(c) Critically analyze M. G. Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets* as a diasporic novel.

2. Answer any one of the following : 5

(a) How does the social, political and cultural background influence the characters in Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*?

(b) Sketch the character of Corbin or Mariamu.

UNIT—II

3. Answer any one of the following : 15

(a) Critically analyze the use of symbolism in Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance*.

(b) Critically analyze how Rohinton Mistry addresses the idea of social hierarchy in the novel, *A Fine Balance*.

(c) Dina Dalal is described as a very tough woman. There have been many mishaps in her life that have shaped her. Describe two incidents in Dina's life that have shaped her into the independent

( 3 )

woman that she is. Also, compare/contrast Dina's relationships with her brother Nusswan and Rustom. Which relationship do you think had a larger impact on her?

4. Answer any one of the following : 5

(a) What effect is achieved by the novel's mildly comic ending, with Om and Ishvar clowning around at Dina's door?

(b) How does Mistry address the subject of rural-urban divide of India in *A Fine Balance*?

UNIT—III

5. Answer any one of the following : 15

(a) Analyze how Meera Syal's *Anita and Me* deals with diasporic aspects such as culture shock, alienation, assimilation, common history and myth, formation of ethnic group, longing for home ambience and longing to visit the imagined ancestral home.

(b) Critically analyze the use of irony and symbolism in Meera Syal's *Anita and Me*.

(c) Critically elaborate the role magic and dreams play in Meena's narrative.

( 4 )

6. Answer any *one* of the following : 5
- (a) How does Meera Syal present the importance of female friendship in *Anita and Me*?
- (b) How does Syal present the importance of family life in *Anita and Me*?
- (c) Briefly sketch the character of Nanima.

UNIT—IV

7. Answer any *one* of the following : 15
- (a) "*The Namesake* is ... a novel of nostalgia, in as much as it is concerned with issues of memory, remembering, forgetting, and loss." Elaborate.
- (b) "Name and identity is central to Lahiri's novel, *The Namesake*." Do you agree? Examine critically.
- (c) Critically elaborate how Jhumpa Lahiri addresses the issue of culture in the novel, *The Namesake*.

8. Answer any *one* of the following : 5
- (a) Comment on Jhumpa Lahiri's depiction of society and class in the novel, *The Namesake*.
- (b) Write a brief character sketch of Gogol or Moushumi Mazoomdar.

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