

2025

ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-6036

(Partition Literature)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following as directed : $1 \times 10 = 10$

- (a) Who is Pandit Hardayal's son?
- (b) Where did Khalah Jan live with her husband?
- (c) "As for me, I was born here, and I will die here." Who says this in *The Shadow Lines*?
- (d) Where in Dhaka did Anantashekhar have his house?
- (e) How much milk did Ramlochan bring to Mallika?

(2)

(f) Who came to meet Bishan Singh in the asylum before the exchange of lunatics?

(g) What is the full name of Jyoti?

(h) "I live in imagined days and nights, I exist in the _____ of the prison walls." (Fill in the blank)

(i) Name the collection of poems in which Jibanananda Das' poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal* is included.

(j) What is the pen name of Sampooran Singh Kalra?

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

(a) What did Raka write in her last letter to Alam?

(b) Who were the members of 'Help and Welfare Society'? Why did they descend on Mallika's 'Mattress kingdom'?

(c) What does Faiz imply by 'stray dogs' in *For Your Lanes, My Country*?

(d) What did the doctor speak, like a Vedantin, to Jyoti?

(e) Who came to meet Zakir's Abba Jan every day?

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(Continued)

(3)

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

(a) Critically comment on the title of Intizar Hussain's novel, *Basti*.

(b) Briefly discuss the relevance of cartography in *The Shadow Lines*.

(c) How does Mallika, in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *The Final Solution*, represent the condition of women after the partition?

(d) Comment briefly on Jyoti's attitude to motherhood as depicted in *A Leaf in the Storm*.

(e) Show how the anxieties and hopes of Faiz Ahmed Faiz are reflected in the poem, *For Your Lanes, My Country*.

(f) Comment on Jibanananda Das' use of symbols and images in his poem, *I Shall Return to This Bengal*.

4. Answer any four of the following : 10×4=40

(a) Would you consider *Basti* to be a moving narrative on the feeling of loss of homeland and the self?

(b) Discuss how the notions of identity, selfhood and nation are wrapped around each other in *The Shadow Lines*.

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(Turn Over)

- (c) Discuss Jibanananda Das' *I Shall Return to This Bengal* as a wishful longing for a lost home.
- (d) Comment on the use of irony in Gulzar's poem, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (e) Do you consider Lalithambika Antharjanam's *A Leaf in the Storm* as a story of violence, survival and recovery? Illustrate with examples from the text.
- (f) Discuss how Saadat Hasan Manto depicts the psychological trauma of the partition through the predicament of Bishan Singh in his story, *Toba Tek Singh*.
- (g) "...Alam had realized that man's continuity survived in his blood, not in his address." Does this realization persist in Alam throughout the story, *Alam's Own House*? Discuss.
- (h) "Am I weak just because I'm a woman?" Attempt a character sketch of Mallika in the light of her question in Manik Bandyopadhyay's *The Final Solution*.

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