



Register Number:

Date:

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27

**B.A/ B.Sc./B.S.W./ B.Com ADDITIONAL ENGLISH – IV SEMESTER
SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2018
AE 414 – ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**

Time: 2 1/2 Hours

Max marks- 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. This paper contains TWO printed pages.**
- 2. You will lose marks for exceeding word limit.**
- 3. You are allowed to use a dictionary during the examination.**

I. Answer the following questions in 150 words each : (10x2=20)

1. Show how Miller's narrative techniques in Death of a Salesman plays with the audiences' own illusion and memory. Explain using suitable examples.
2. In Madame Bovary, Flaubert makes the reader empathize with the dilemma that Emma goes through but also at the same time questions her fall. Do you agree with the fact that the tragedy in Emma's life was brought about by herself? Comment by giving examples from the text.

II. Read the excerpt, "Identity: an inquisitive concern in Amitav Ghosh's novels" by Pooja Narain and answer the following questions :

The issue of identity has always been an important thematic concern in Indian writings in English. The most obvious and contentious issue revolves round the medium of creative expression in Indian English literature. The Indian writers practising in English are accused of being disloyal to their native identity and culture because of the adoption of a foreign tongue. The earlier practitioners of this genre evidently suffered from a sense of crisis of identity

emanating from a supposed conflict between native culture and alien tongue through which the culture is communicated. The dichotomy between the medium of expression and the cultural make-up is due to the fact that English language embodies the culture of the European imperialists who ruled the Indian subcontinent for a considerable period of time. There are some Indian writers and scholars who raised their voice against the use of English as a medium of creative expression by the Indian writers. Another point of major concern in the earlier phase of Indian English literature can be located in the tug-of-war between Indian tradition and European modernity. The precarious status of Indian writers in English, argues David Mc Cutchion, makes them meditate on themes of how to be modern without losing native roots, without becoming an imitation Westerner'. Indian English literature has of late attained global recognition and received wide critical acclaim. The emergence of a host of Indian writers following the phenomenal success of Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (1981) is a significant event in the history of Indian writings in English. However the use of English as the medium of creative expression by the Indian writers has always been a point of debate and critical analysis by the leading commentators.

Despite the wide range of subjects Ghosh deals with both in his fictional and non-fictional works, the issue of what constitutes identity forms the kernel of Ghosh's creative output. Ghosh's novels may be interpreted as the illustration of the multiple ways of identity formation. Since identity is constructed in a given socio-cultural milieu, it cannot be discussed or grasped outside the context within which it is negotiated. Identity is, generally speaking, a context-specific position. No wonder we may have multiple identities depending on the context in which our identity is positioned. In other words context provides the ground against which we define ourselves. One may for example attach particular importance to one's social identity which may not be relevant in another context. In other words it is only in contextualizing identity in certain socio-cultural framework that we can develop a clear sense of our identity category.

II Answer any TWO of the following questions in 200 words each: (2x15=30)

3. How is the concept of identity crisis propagated in the novels of Amitav Ghosh? Support your answer with examples from Ghosh's novels that you have read.
4. "The characters that Ghosh portray are mostly created or formed by the various societal and political norms." How far do you agree with the statement? Narrate the various incidents that you have come across in the texts that support the statement above.
5. Contrast the way the two writers– Miller and Ghosh, present history in their respective works.

III. 6. Comment on the use of language and the power structure devised by Wodehouse in his novels that you encountered while reading. How is Ghosh's approach different in this regard? (20x1=20)