

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086**  
**(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019–2020 and thereafter)**

**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023**  
**BRANCH XII – ENGLISH**  
**FIFTH SEMESTER**

**COURSE : MAJOR – CORE**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/MC/WA55**  
**PAPER : WEST ASIAN LITERATURE**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

**SECTION A**

**I. Answer any four of the following questions in 250 words each. (4x10=40 marks)**

1. To what extent did Amos Oz's young life reflect the young nation of Israel in which he was raised?
2. How does Marjane's unique relationship with her mother and grandmother influence her relationship with the changing Iranian society?
3. Explore the theme of displacement in Dunya Mikhail's "I was in a Hurry".
4. Analyse "Oil Fields" as an ecological text.
5. How does Emily Nasrallah convey the horrors of war in her story "The Green Bird"?
6. Explore the theme of identity in the story "Freefall in a Shattered Mirror".

**SECTION B**

**II. Answer any two of the following questions in 600 words each. (2x20=40 marks)**

7. Analyse "Passport" as a poem of resistance.
8. Hassan Blassim's "writing occupies a precarious position between history and imagination, autobiography and projection." Discuss in the context of his story, "The Reality and the Record".
9. Discuss the alienation of Mahin Banu and its wider implications in the story "A House in Heaven" by Goli Taraqqi.
10. Explore the major themes in the poems centred on conflict and war prescribed in your syllabus.

**SECTION C**

**III. Analyse the following passage as a commentary on the political state of Israel. (1x20=20 marks)**

**It's a Long Time Since Anybody's Asked - Yehuda Amichai**

It's a long time since anybody's asked  
Who lived in these houses, and who last spoke; who  
Forgot his overcoat in these houses,  
And who stayed. (Why didn't he run away?)

A dead tree stands amongst the blossoming trees.  
A dead tree.  
It's an old mistake, never understood,  
And at the edge of the country; the beginning  
Of somebody else's time. A little silence.  
And the ravings of the body and hell.  
And the end of the end which moves in whispers.  
The wind passed through this place  
And a serious dog watched humans laugh.

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