

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

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : POSTGRADUATE CORE
SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/PC/PC34
PAPER : POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

Section A

I. Write short essays on any four of the following in about 300 words each. (4x10=40 marks)

1. Demonstrate how Edward Said challenges the binary opposition between the "Orient" and the "Occident" in his introduction to *Orientalism*.
2. Analyse the main arguments and concepts presented by Young and explain how they contribute to our understanding of postcolonialism.
3. Evaluate the role of symbolism in the story "Unaccustomed Earth." How does it contribute to the overall meaning and impact of the narrative?
4. Explore the tensions and power dynamics between the White passengers and the Africans at the train station in "The Train from Rhodesia". How does this reflect the broader social context of apartheid?
5. In Lisa Belleair's poem "Women's Liberation," the speaker displays a lack of understanding of indigenous women, particularly Koori women in Victoria. How does this theme of limited knowledge about indigenous cultures and rights connect to broader issues of privilege and responsibility?
6. "Radiance" explores the complex dynamics within a family, particularly among the three indigenous sisters. Attempt an analysis of the relationships and conflicts between Mae, Cressy, and Nona.

Section B

II. Write essays on any two of the following in about 750 words each. (2x20=40 marks)

7. Evaluate the significance of Loomba's definitions in contemporary discussions of global power dynamics. What is their relevance in addressing current issues related to colonial legacies and postcolonial challenges?
8. The concept of "Americanah" is central to the story. How do various characters embody or reject this identity? What does this signify about the intersection of race, nationality, and cultural adaptation?
9. The conclusion of "At Cooloola" seems to emphasise the universal significance of Cooloola beyond the personal connection of the speaker. Discuss the idea that Cooloola is not just a physical landscape but also a part of the speaker's identity?
10. Comment on the complexities of cultural encounters, the impact of colonialism, and the clash of values and traditions in *Death and the King's Horseman*.

Section C**III. Attempt a postcolonial reading of the following passage:****(1x20-20 marks)**

11.

Humans Are Definitely A Funny Old Lot

Rory Galbraith (South Africa)

Humans are definitely a funny old lot
there are billions and billions of us
but a handful of old white-heads are deciding what's what
this handful of old white-heads who rule and reign
decide for us what it is we can do, what it is we can say
where it is we can go, what it is we can wear
who we can marry, to whom we can pray
they promulgate our laws, our rules, our boundaries and learning
imprisoning and fining us if we dare disobey
yet render themselves completely immune to all proclamations
bribing and lying when they go astray
they pay themselves obscene sums of money
for keeping us subservient and firmly on track
yet they tax us for this and they tax us for that
ensuring that most of our pay-checks are given straight back
safely ensconced in his citadel of power
a single old white-head
stroking his ego and thumping his chest can make a decision
that leaves thousands and thousands of us brutally dead
I do not understand, it is beyond my ken
how is it possible, how can it be, that only one
of our billions and billions
can cause so much pain and can get so much done
so, I say once again
humans are definitely a funny old lot
there are billions and billions of us
but a handful of old white-heads are deciding what's what.
