

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

**B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2024**  
**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. Comment on Dunya Mikhail's poem "I Was in a Hurry" as a yearning for the lost homeland.
2. "I was obsessed with these lights, staring at them like a moth which lives to steer by the stars, hoping that I could fly straight toward them." Discuss the boy's obsession in a rapidly changing scenario in Saudi Arabia in Mohammed Hassan Alwan's story "Oil Field."
3. "'You are not me...,' she said to her reflection." Comment on the dilemma of the protagonist in Hisham Bustani's story "Freefall in a Shattered Mirror."
4. Discuss Adonis's poems "The Days" and "Underground" in the light of the life he led as a Syrian refugee.
5. Comment on Falastine Dwikat's depiction of the ongoing war in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in her poems "Alignment" and "Beit Bayout."
6. Personal history is often interwoven with political history in many of the texts prescribed for study. Comment with special reference to any text prescribed for study.

**SECTION B**

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

7. The socio-political events in Iran after the Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war affected the lives of women in many ways. Discuss with reference to Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel *Persepolis* and Goli Taraghi's short story "A House in Heaven."
8. "I don't monopolise history and memory and God, as Israelis want to do. . . Let each one tell his narrative as he wants. Let the two narratives make a dialogue, and history will smile." – Mahmoud Darwish. Comment on Mahmoud Darwish's poem "Passport" and Amos Oz's memoir *A Tale of Love and Darkness* in the light of this statement.
9. The dictatorial regime in Iraq and the sectarian violence in Lebanon affected people in different ways. Discuss with special reference to Hassan Blasim's short story "The Reality and the Record" and Emily Nasrallah's short story "The Green Bird."
10. "Exile is strangely compelling to think about but terrible to experience." – Edward Said. Discuss the trauma of the refugee with reference to any two texts prescribed for study.

SECTION C

**III. Analyse the poem given below with special reference to socio-political issues  
in the Palestine-Israel conflict zone. (1x20=20 marks)**

11.

**I Am Big and Fat**

- Yehuda Amichai

I am big and fat.  
Against every kilo of fat,  
Was added a kilo of sadness.

I was a great stutterer, but since  
I learned to lie, my speech pours out like water.  
Only my face stayed heavy  
Like syllables impossible to pronounce,  
Stumble-stones, stammering.

Sometimes my eyes still show flashes  
Like fire from remote guns  
Very far inside me. Old battle.

I demand of others  
Not to forget. Myself, only to forget.

In the end, forgotten.

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