

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011 – 12)

SUBJECT CODE:11EL/PC/BL34

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2012  
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH  
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE  
PAPER : BRITISH LITERATURE -III  
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Answer any TWO of the following in about 300 words each: (2x15=30)

1. What are the reflections on old age in Philip Larkin's "The Old Fools" and Yeats' "Sailing to Byzantium"?
2. "Lots of folk live on their wits", but the poet persona of "Toads" has chosen to do otherwise. How does he reason out his stance?
3. How does Ted Hughes delve into the man-machine binary in "Tractor"?
4. Jackie Kay states, "I consider myself a Scottish writer, in the sense that I am, and I consider myself a black writer, in the sense that I am, and a woman writer in the sense that I am." How are these aspects of individual identity explored in her poem "Pride"?

II. Answer any TWO of the following in about 300 words each: (2x15=30)

1. Write a note on existentialist philosophy and the Theatre of the Absurd with reference to *Endgame*.
2. How does *The Odour of Chrysanthemums* convey the sadness of life and death?
3. Attempt a critical appreciation of the narrative style of *The Searchlight*.
4. How does Stevens' role as butler of Darlington Hall serve to illustrate the changes in post-war (World War II) Britain?

III. Answer any TWO of the following in about 1000 words (2x20=40)

1. Write a brief account of the element of 'earthiness' in the poems of Seamus Heaney. Explain with reference to the poems prescribed.
2. Explain the significance of the title *The Remains of the Day*.
3. One of the themes of Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* is the conflict between reason and emotion. Explain.
4. According to Julian Barnes, "History isn't what happened. History is just what historians tell us." How does his novel *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* employ the themes of voyage and discovery and the mixture of fictional and historical narratives to explicate this notion of history?

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