

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/PC/PC34  
M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2013  
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH  
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE  
PAPER : POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES  
TIME : 3 HOURS  
MAX. MARKS : 100

**SECTION-A**

**I. Answer any TWO of the following in about 1000 words each. (2x20=40 marks)**

- a. How would you respond to Chinua Achebe's accusation that "Joseph Conrad was a thoroughgoing racist" and Edward Said's observation that "As a creature of his time, Conrad could not grant the natives their freedom, despite his severe critique of the imperialism that enslaved them"?
- b. Why does Wole Soyinka say that to respond to *Death and the King's Horsemen* as a "clash of cultures" piece is "a sadly familiar reductionist tendency"?
- c. "A wonderful dream transforms itself into a nightmare in *The Thing Around Your Neck* as Akunna problematizes both space and its associations." Comment.
- d. How do *Ruins of a Great House* and *The Promised Land* frame marginality?
- e. Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* has "layers of signification as it presents a multiverse within the frame of the novel." Comment.

**SECTION-B**

**II. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 350 words each. (4x10=40 marks)**

- a. Why does Homi Bhabha say that "The postcolonial perspective forces us to rethink the profound limitations of a consensual and collusive 'liberal' sense of cultural community"?
- b. Comment on the way Robert Young showcases the double nature of hybridity.
- c. How does Joy Kogawa use memory and forgetfulness as strategic devices in *Obasan*?
- d. "The obvious difference in pigmentation between the Europeans and Africans is the original point of reference for countless imaginary polarities." Discuss this statement with reference to *The Train from Rhodesia*.
- e. How does Said show that Orientalism is a discursive formation?

- f. “*The Whale* dramatizes the conflicting claims of tradition and change” Comment.
- g. “For Stephen Slemon postcolonial theories deal with the relation between representation and politics.” Comment.

### SECTION-C

**III. Analyse the following poem in about 800 words.**

**(1x20=20 marks)**

#### **The Vultures**

In that time

When civilization struck with insults

When holy water struck domesticated brows

The vultures built in the shadow of their claws

The bloody monument of the tutelary era

In that time

Laughter gasped its last in the metallic hell of roads

And the monotonous rhythm of Paternosters

Covered the groans on plantations run for profit

O sour memory of extorted kisses

Promises mutilated by machine-gun blasts

Strange men who were not men

You knew all the books you did not know love

Or the hands that fertilize the womb of the earth

The roots of our hands deep as revolt

Despite your hymns of pride among boneyards

Villages laid waste and Africa dismembered

Hope lived in us like a citadel

And from the mines of Swaziland to the heavy sweat of Europe’s factories

Spring will put on flesh under our steps of light.

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