

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 2014
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) Would you agree with the statement that *Death and The King's Horseman* is a “metaphor not just for the whole history of Africa and its collision with colonial Europe but a profound meditation on the nature of man, . . . the relationship of life with death and the power of religion, ritual and spirituality in human existence.”?
- b) "...despite *Heart of Darkness's* obvious anti-colonist agenda, the novel points to the colonized population as the standard of savagery to which Europeans are contrasted." Discuss.
- c) Analyse the theme of memory, history and poetry in Walcott's “Ruins of a Great House”.
- d) How does Zadie Smith's *On Beauty* problematise the narrow aesthetic parameters of canonical art?
- e) Discuss the theme of family and alienation in “The Thing Around your Neck”.

SECTION-B

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

- f) What are the arguments put forth by Said to state that Orientalism “is not an airy European fantasy about the Orient but a created body of theory and practice”?
- g) Discuss Selmon's views on Hybridity and Subaltern agency.
- h) How effective is Bhabha in attempting “to revive the known, to rename the postmodern from the position of the postcolonial”?
- i) Discuss David Diop's “The Vultures” as a resistance poem.
- j) Comment on the theme of loss and identity in “The Whale”.
- k) Analyse the narrative technique of Gordimer's “The Train from Rhodesia”.
- l) Discuss the intricate connection between ritual and death in Soyinka's play.

SECTION-C

III. Analyse the following poem in about 800 words.

(1x20=20 marks)

The Promised Land

At the tables
the plastic flowers marked by flies
and the cutlery limp
they were serving our marrow
with the boiled peas
chewing it patiently with their dentures
and singing
— for he's a jolly good fellow —

The spirits of the land
which they had slain
moved in their dreams
with eyes of burning coal
the thrust of wild beasts
coming at night with the full moon
to grip them by the throat
change the course of their appetites
give them strange diets.
