

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 2015
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) Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman* has been about—"not a clash of cultures but the inadequacy of one culture to judge another." Discuss.
- b) Conrad's *The Heart of Darkness* documents the imperialist agenda to civilize the uncivilized which proves to be a brutal victimization of the native Africans for achieving materialistic gains. Justify.
- c) Critically examine the conflict of race, culture and class as portrayed in Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*.
- d) Derek Walcott's "Ruins of a Great House" re-visits the grandeur and demise of Colonial Power-Illustrate.

SECTION-B

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

- e) *The Thing Around Your Neck* records the conflict of upholding one's ethnic identity in an alien world. Discuss.
- f) Critically evaluate how John Blight's *Down From the Country* redefines human experience in a strange land.
- g) Comment on the subtle portrayal of racial prejudice in *The Train from Rhodesia*.
- h) Analyse "The Promised Land" using the concept of migrancy.
- i) Discuss the concept of "cultural hegemony" as mentioned by Said in *Orientalism* which valorises the idea of European identity as a superior one in comparison with all the non-European people and cultures with reference to the short story "The Whale."
- j) *Obasan* chronicles not only the life and history of Japanese Canadian but also the predicament of their native and immigrant identity. Substantiate.

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.

David Diop
