

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2010
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : PROSE
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I. Attempt a short analysis of any ONE of the following passages with special focus on theme, structure and style: (1x15=15)

1. Girls of fifteen are always laughing. They laugh when Mr. Binney helps himself to salt instead of sugar. They almost die of laughing when old Mrs. Tomkins sits down upon the cat. But they are crying the moment after. They have no fixed abode from which they see that there is something eternally laughable in human nature, some quality in men and women that forever excites our satire. They do not know that Lady Greville who snubs, and poor Maria who is snubbed, are permanent features of every ballroom. But Jane Austen knew it from her birth upwards. One of those fairies who perch upon cradles must have taken her on a flight through the world directly she was born. When she was laid in the cradle again she knew not only what the world looked like, but had already chosen her kingdom. She had agreed that if she might rule over that territory, she would covet no other. Thus at fifteen she had few illusions about other people and none about herself. Whatever she writes is finished and turned and set in its relation, not to the parsonage, but to the universe. She is impersonal; she is inscrutable. When the writer, Jane Austen, wrote down in the most remarkable sketch in the book a little of Lady Greville's conversation, there is no trace of anger at the snub which the clergyman's daughter, Jane Austen, once received. Her gaze passes straight to the mark, and we know precisely where, upon the map of human nature, that mark is. We know because Jane Austen kept to her compact; she never trespassed beyond her boundaries. Never, even at the emotional age of fifteen, did she round upon herself in shame, obliterate a sarcasm in a spasm of compassion, or blur an outline in a mist of rhapsody. Spasms and rhapsodies, she seems to have said, pointing with her stick, end THERE; and the boundary line is perfectly distinct.

OR

I know that in offering this apology on behalf of the government and the parliament, there is nothing I can say today that can take away the pain you have suffered personally. Whatever words I speak today, I cannot undo that. Words alone are not that powerful; grief is a very personal thing. I ask those non-indigenous Australians listening today who may not fully understand why what they are doing is so important to imagine for a moment that this had happened to you. I say to honorable members here present: Imagine if this had happened to us. Imagine the crippling effect. Imagine how hard it would be to forgive. My proposal is this: if the apology we extend today is accepted in the spirit of reconciliation in which it is offered, we can today resolve together that there be a new beginning for Australia. And it is to such a new beginning that I believe the nation is now calling us.

II. Answer any THREE of the following in about 350 words each: (3x15=45)

- a. Comment on the stylistic features of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.
- b. Comment on the style of Francis Bacon in his essay "Of Ambition".
- c. What are the salient points in the letter written by Nehru to his daughter in his letter dated 9 August 1933?
- d. Discuss the main ideas raised by George Mikes in his essay "Tea".
- e. Describe the use of the semicolon as listed by Sam Roberts.
- f. Discuss out the arguments put forth by Marina Hyde in her column "The Private Collapses into the Public".

III. Answer any TWO of the following in 500 words each: (2x20=40)

- a. Discuss the significance of newspaper columns with special reference to Ramachandra Guha.
- b. Comment on the style of Charles Lamb's essay "Dream Children".
- c. Critically analyse J.B.Priestley's "On Doing Nothing".
- d. Discuss the title of Sen's essay "Development as Freedom" in relation to the arguments he presents and the issues he raises.
- e. How does Nelson Mandela celebrate the close connections between India and his country in his letter to Mrs Manorama Bhalla?
