

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008–09 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/PT34
B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2010
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : POETRY - II
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

Section - A

Attempt any two.

(2x20=40)

Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rage at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning, they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

- a) How does the poet express the need to affirm life?(350 words;10 marks)
b) Comment on the style of the poem.(200 words; 5 marks)
c) How does the poet bring out the inherent conflicts of life? (200 words;5 marks)

2. Come thunder

Now that the triumphant march has entered the last street corners,
Remember, o dancers, the thunder among the clouds...
Now that the laughter broken in two, hangs tremulous between the teeth,
Remember, o dancers, the lightning beyond the earth...
The smell of blood already floats in the lavender mist of the afternoon.
The death sentence lies in ambush along the corridors of power;
And a great fearful thing already tugs at the cables of the open air,
A nebula immense and immeasurable, a night of deep waters-
An iron dream unnamed and unprintable, a path of stone.
The drowsy heads of the pods in barren farmlands witness it,
The homesteads abandoned in this century's brush fire witnesses it.

- a) How does the poem comment on contemporary reality/politics? (350 words; 10 marks)
b) Select an image and relate how it contributes to the general atmosphere described here.
(200 words ; 5 marks)
c) Is this a post-colonial poem? (200 words; 5 marks)

3. His soul stitched tight across the skin
That fade behind a city block,
Or trampled by insistent feet
At four and five and six o'clock;
And short, square fingers stuffing pipes,
And evening newspapers, and eyes
Assured of certain certainties,
The conscience of a blackened street
Impatient to assume the world.
I am moved by fancies that are curled
Around these images, and cling;
The notion of some infinitely gentle
Infinitely suffering thing.

Wipe your hand across your mouth,
The worlds revolve like ancient women
Gathering fuel in vacant lots.

- a) How is a picture of modern city life portrayed in this poem? (350 words; 10 marks)
b) What image of man is given here? (200 words; 5 marks)
c) At the end what is the mood of the poem? (200 words; 5 marks)

4. The tongue stuck in my jaw.
It stuck in a barbed wire snare.
Ich, ich, ich, ich,
I could hardly speak.
I thought every German was you.
And the language obscene.

An engine, an engine
Chuffing me off like a Jew.
A Jew to Dachau, Auschwitz, Belsen.
I began to talk like a Jew.
I think I may well be a Jew.

The snows of the Tyrol, the clear beer of Vienna
Are not very pure or true.
With my gypsy ancestors and my weird luck
And my Taroc pack
I may be a bit of a Jew.

- a) What is the poet's remembered relationship with her father? (350 words-10 marks)
b) What is the veiled reference to the pure snows of Tyrol and clear beer? (200 words - 5 marks)
c) What is the purpose of the use of Nazi symbolism in the poem? (200 words - 5 marks)

Section B

Write three essays in approximately 750 words each.

(3x20=60)

1. Consider Ginsberg's poetry as the voice of the Beat Generation with special reference to 'Sunflower Sutra'.
2. How does "The Second Coming" express Yeats' sense of the dissolution of civilization, the close of one cycle followed by the birth of another.
3. "Digging" makes a clear connection between Heaney's vocation and his inherited traditions. Discuss.
4. Consider Neruda's poetry as 'Protest literature'.
5. How does Aga Shahid Ali deal with the pain of loss of home in "Postcard from Kashmir"?
