

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

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/SA54

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

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : SOUTH ASIAN WRITING
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I. Analyse one of the following poems in not less than 350 words, with reference to the issues raised by the author. (1x15=15 marks)

Bangladesh II by Faiz Ahmed Faiz
Translated by Agha Shahid Ali

This is how my sorrow became visible:
its dust, piling up for years in my heart,
finally reached my eyes,

the bitterness now so clear that
I had to listen when my friends
told me to wash my eyes with blood.

Everything at once was tangled in blood –
each face, each idol, red everywhere.
Blood swept over the sun, washing away its gold.

The moon erupted with blood, its silver extinguished.
The sky promised a morning of blood,
and the night wept only blood.

The trees hardened into crimson pillars.
All flowers filled their eyes with blood.
And every glance was an arrow,

Each pierced image blood. This blood
- a river crying out for martyrs –
flows on in longing. And in sorrow, in rage, in love.

Let it flow. Should it be dammed up,
there will only be hatred cloaked in colors of death.
Don't let this happen, my friends,

Bring all my tears back instead,
a flood to purify my dust-filled eyes,
to wash this blood forever from my eyes.

OR

SEA BREEZE, BOMBAY by Adil Jussawalla (India)

*Partition's people stitched
Shrouds from a flag, gentlemen scissored Sind.
An opened people, fraying across the cut
country reknotted themselves on this island.*

*Surrogate city of banks,
Brokering and bays, refugees' harbor and port,
Gatherer of ends whose brick beginnings work
Loose like a skin, spotting the coast,*

*Restore us to fire. New refugees,
Wearing blood-red wool in the worst heat,
come from Tibet, scanning the sea from the north,
dazed, holes in their cracked feet.*

*Restore us to fire. Still,
Communities tear and re-form; and still, a breeze,
Cooling our garrulous evenings, investigates nothing,
Ruffles no tempers, uncovers no root,*

And settles no one adrift of the mainland's histories.

II. Answer three of the following in not less than 300 words each. (3x15=45 marks)

1. "The playwright by putting the emphasis on this woman's mission has created a problem within a system where women's voice is not given prominence if not actually muted." Justify this statement with special reference to Purnima in Abhi Subedi's "Fire in the Monastery".
2. How does South Asian writing help provide a platform to voice local concerns? Give suitable examples and illustrate.
3. What are the major issues highlighted by Kunal Basu in "The Japanese Wife"?
4. Discuss the salient features of Khaleda Salahuddin's "Relief Camp".

III. Answer two of the following in not less than 750 words each. (2x20=40 marks)

1. Vijay Tendulkar's "Silence! The Court is in Session" combines "social criticism with the tragedy of an individual victimized by society". Discuss.
2. List the major themes present in South Asian writings with suitable illustrations from the texts prescribed for study.
3. How do historical events impact people in Kamila Shamsie's "Kartography"?
4. What are the major concerns of the Sri Lankan writers prescribed for study?
