

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2016  
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH  
SIXTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE  
PAPER : SOUTH ASIAN WRITING  
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

- I. Analyse one of the following poems, with reference to the issues raised by the author. (1x15=15)

**FOR THE NEXT BIRTH**

*Yumlebam Ibomcha Singh*

In the next birth  
I shall take birth as a bastard.  
You should also take birth as one.  
Then let's meet at an ownerless shack of the  
marketplace  
just you and I, freely.

In that birth  
the moment I drop from my mother's womb  
I shall stamp on that woman's chest  
then emerge sprouting wings.  
Without drinking a drop of my mother's milk  
I shall fly out the house's narrow door.

I shall grow up as a bazaar dog  
walking alone in any direction I choose  
none feeding me a morsel of rice,  
none looking at me with loving eyes.  
I would like to live alone.  
Then let us meet.

You should also grow up an orphan like me.  
The moment she gives birth to you  
let your mother die  
before feeding you a drop of milk;  
let none love you, and  
you should also love none.  
Don't eat begging even a grain of rice,  
don't eat too what others offer you.

You should live  
grabbing  
snatching  
digging from mouths of others  
then we'll meet, you and I.

Let us only meet  
as the price of this birth  
freely, even if only for a few moments,  
let us embrace  
for a moment without fear.

*Translated by Robin S. Ngangom*

OR

An excerpt from 'BIG MATCH, 1983'

*Yasmine Gooneratne*

Out of the Palmyra fences of Jaffna  
bristle a hundred guns.  
Shopfronts in the Pettah, landmarks of our childhood,  
curl like old photographs in the flames.  
Blood on their khakhi uniforms, three boys lie dying:  
a crowd looks silently the other way.  
Near the wheels of his smashed bicycle  
at the corner of Duplication Road a child lies dead  
and two policemen look the other way  
as a stout man, sweating with fear, falls to his knees  
beneath a bo-tree in a shower of sticks and stones  
flung by his neighbour's hands.  
The joys of childhood, friendships of our youth  
Ravaged by pieties and politics,  
Screaming across our screens, her agony  
at last exposed, Sri Lanka burns alive.

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

- How appropriate is the title SMS for the short story by Sunetra Rajakarunanayake?
- How does the poem "Tripura" engage with the theme of dislocation and identity?
- Critically examine the themes presented in "Relief Camp."
- How does "Land of My Parents" highlight the theme of migration, home and longing?
- How does "The Play of the Absurd" bring to light the problems of the North-eastern states of India in general and of Meghalaya in particular?

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

- How is Kaiser Haq's poem "A Myth Reworked" specific to the nation it represents?
- How does *Kartography* examine the issues of factionalism and prejudice as affecting a nation and an individual?
- How does *Fire in the Monastery* show fire as the catalyst that brings different imaginative modes together?
- How does Jean Arasanayagam juxtapose the past with the present in the poem "Passages"?

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