

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2017
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)

“Dog Cull” by Indran Amirthanayagam

The parallels boggle me blind,
like a cliché the poem writes
on automatic pilot, 300,000 civilians
by the lagoon, among them
a smaller number of Tiger terrorists.
Bomb, bomb, bomb away
to eliminate the terror problem.

Now we have three million
stray dogs, sterilization
has not worked, we need
to cull, to limit the number,
under one hundred, of citizens
succumbing to death
from rabid animals, dogs et al.

So kill the canines. Don't think
about the unrabid roaming free,
and if the domestic pet escapes,
and wanders through
the neighborhood he too will see
his god. Let all dogs live in fear,
not advertise their residencies

in their respective compounds. One
never knows when the dog patrol
may rove behind the white vans.
In the end we will live happily
without terrorists or rabies
and more pliable populations
of Tamils, and of dogs.

OR

“Justice” (for the blind girl who was sentenced under ‘Hudood’) by Zehra Nigah

Imprisoned,
 I am also free
 in this little room;
 the sun moves across
 a window in the ceiling
 before it sets;
 rays of light,
 sparingly enter;
 on the path they make,
 I walk home;
 my father, even now,
 returning
 from the city,
 brings along for me,
 a shawl, a comb, bangles and kohl,
 and so much more;
 both my brothers,
 study in the mosque,
 as they did;
 God’s edicts
 they read, memorise;
 my sister puts away in a basket,
 my share of bread;
 feeds it to the sparrows
 at dawn;
 my mother is kind of crazy,
 gathering stones
 or talking to sparrows
 as they pick the grain;
 she says:
 when the sparrows will fathom the truth,
 in their beaks and claws
 they would clutch the stones;
 then would rage a storm
 to ravage law-givers,
 tear down the pulpits;
 justice He would deliver Himself,
 the Supreme Lord,
 the same for one and all,
 the revered, the exalted.
 How should I tell my mother,
 am I the Kaaba,
 the House of the Lord?

(Translated by Yasmin Hameed)

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

- a. Justify the title of Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih's *Play of the Absurd*.
- b. What are the major issues discussed in Kaiser Haq's *A Myth Reworked* ?
- c. Discuss the concerns discussed in Khaleda Salahuddin's *Relief Camp*.
- d. How does Jean Arasanayagam's *Passages* underline turmoil?
- e. Comment on the techniques used in Sunetra Rajakarunanayake's *SMS*.

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

- a. Attempt an analysis of some common concerns found in South Asian writing.
- b. Discuss the relevance of the title *Fire in the Monastery* by Abhi Subedi.
- c. Critically analyze the themes and techniques used in Kamila Shamsie's *Kartography*.
- d. How is the theme of migration dealt with in Krittibas Chakraborty's *Tripura*?
