

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2017
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : SUBALTERN WRITING
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS: 100**

SECTION – A

I Answer any three of the following in about 200 words each: (3 x 15= 45)

1. What are the subaltern concerns explored by Saeed Akhtar Mirza in ‘The First Lady and the Terrorist’?
2. How does Mahasweta Devi deal with the themes of silence and speech in ‘Kunti and Nishadin’?
3. Comment on Nellie Wong’s quest for identity in ‘When I was Growing Up’.
4. Explicate the use of imagery in Cherrie Moraga’s ‘The Welder’.
5. Comment on the significance of revisioning and subversion in subaltern writing.

SECTION – B

II Answer any two of the following in about 600 words each: (2 x 20=40)

1. Analyze ‘Kunti and Nishadin’ from a subaltern perspective.
2. Discuss the theme of discrimination in Saeed Akhtar Mirza’s film script ‘The First Lady and the Terrorist’.
3. Comment on the relevance of Paulo Friere’s notion of critical consciousnesses and fear of freedom to subaltern writing.
4. Enumerate Fanon’s views on “decolonization as a historical process”.

SECTION – C

III From a subaltern perspective, attempt an analysis of any one of the passages and answer the questions given below: (1 x 15 = 15)

- a. when I was growing up, people would ask
If I were Filipino, Polynesian, Portuguese,
they named all colors except white, the shell
of my soul but not rough dark skin.

when I was growing up, I felt
dirty. I thought that god
made white people clean
and no matter how much I bathed,
I could not change, I could not shed
my skin in the gray water.

1. Comment on the implication of words ‘dark’ and ‘dirty’ in the poem.
2. Describe the tone of the speaker in the given lines.

- b. for too long a time
the heat of my heavy hands
has been smoldering
in the pockets of other
people's business-
they need oxygen to make fire.

I am now
coming up for air
Yes, I am
picking up the torch.

I am the welder.
I understand the capacity of heat
to change the shape of things.
I am suited to work
within the realm of sparks
out of control.

1. What does the line "within the realm of sparks" signify?
2. Explain the metaphor in the given lines.
