

2016

ENGLISH

( Major )

Paper : 5.6

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks  
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions : 1×7=7
- (a) Why is Uma removed from the convent school?
  - (b) What is the common link between Jenny Slade and Barbara Ashley in *Roman Fever*?
  - (c) Who is the narrator of the story, *Heaven is not Closed*?
  - (d) What is the connection between World War I and Mansfield's story, *The Fly*?
  - (e) Who is referred to as the 'Pillar of the Church' in *Catholic Mother*?

( 2 )

(f) Which historical event does Helen Maria Williams refer to in *Letters Written from France*?

(g) According to what custom is Galethebege married?

2. Give short answer to the following questions :

2×4=8

(a) "In my days, girls in the family were not given sweets, nuts, good things to eat." Explain the significance of this remark made by Mama in *Fasting Feasting*.

(b) "I had Barbara."

(i) Who is Barbara?

(ii) Who is 'I'?

(c) Does the Boss really grieve for his son in *The Fly*?

(d) Comment on the role of the Missionaries from your reading of *Heaven is not Closed*.

3. Answer any three of the following : 5×3=15

(a) Explain the significance of the characters of 'Mama-Papa' or 'Mrs. Patton' in *Fasting Feasting*.

( 3 )

(b) Comment on Mrs. Ansley's preoccupation with the activity of knitting in the story, *Roman Fever*.

Or

Briefly describe the Setswana customs of marriage as depicted in Bessie Head's *Heaven is not Closed*.

(c) Critically comment on the use of the term 'Sister Authoresses' by Mrs. Paradise in the course of her party.

(d) Explain the following with reference to the context :

"You want me to be like you Papa  
Or like Rani Lakshmbai,  
You are not sure what greatness is  
But you want me to be great."

4. Answer any three of the following questions :

10×3=30

(a) Elaborate on how Desai uses 'Food' as a major symbol of patriarchal dominion with reference to the title and illustrations from the text, *Fasting Feasting*.

- (b) Comment on the setting of the story, *Roman Fever* with particular reference to the elements of romance, intrigue and power play as etched out against the backdrop of the Colosseum.
- (c) Explain the significance of the title, *The Fly*, connecting it to the existential dilemma that is embodied in the author's use of the fly as a symbol of man's helplessness against reality.
- (d) Comment on the use of letters, diaries and memoirs by writers like Fanny Burney and Helen Maria Williams to highlight the politics of female identity and contemporary sociohistorical events.
- (e) Examine the poetry of Eunice de Souza and Mamta Kalia in the light of their use of subjective sensibilities to critique patriarchy in Indian society.

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