

ENGLISH H

SEM 6

Name of the paper: Partition Literature

Question Bank

Part 1

1. 'One of the many intricate patterns that weaves the novel together is the coalescing of time and space in a seamless continuity, memory endowing remembered places with solidity, and imagination the recounted ones'. In the light of this statement comment on the narrative structure of the novel *The Shadow Lines*.
2. What is the significance of the title *The Shadow Lines*.
3. Write a character sketch of the Ila
4. Write a character sketch of Tha'mma.
5. Explain the significance of the game of houses played by Ila and the Narrator in *The Shadow Lines*.
6. Comment on the significance of memory in *The Shadow Lines*
7. Critically examine Intizar Hussain's depiction of pre-partition and post-partition life in the novel *Basti*.
8. Write a short note about Zakir and his friends
9. Intizar Hussain's *Basti* is a narrative journeying through multiple spaces and time documenting the partition memory. Discuss
10. In *The Shadow Lines*, Calcutta is constructed as a space that is remembered and lived at the same time. Discuss

PART 2

Q.1. Identify and contextualize the following lines:

Just before sunrise, a sky rendering cry emerged from the gullet of Bishan Singh, who till then had stood still and unmoving. Several officials came running to the spot and found that the man who had stood on his legs, day and night for fifteen years, was lying on his face.

- a. What is the implied thematic essence of the excerpt quoted above?
- b. How is Bishan Singh's identity crucial in this context?

Q.2. Write an essay on displacement of identities and the politics of socio-cultural appropriation following the mayhem of partition with reference to any two short stories in your course.

Q.3. ““Oh! It is seeking refuge, stirring its little feet.’ That voice didn’t resemble hers; in fact it wasn’t like anything she had heard so far. Its voice resounded like the assertion of a right, an appeal to nature.”

Critically comment on the above lines from “A Leaf in the Storm” by Lalithambika Antharjanam.

Q.4. Write a critical essay on any one short story from your course.