

BA (Prog)

Sem VI

Cultural Diversity Linguistic Plurality and Literary Traditions in India

Questions: 10 marks Each question

PART 1

1. Comment on the concept of time and space that G.N Devy highlights in the introduction to the painted words?

Or

My mother, the sun rose

A son was born

My mother the moon rose

A daughter was born...

Critically comment on the Mundari birth song. Discuss the song as part of the oral tradition of India.

2. What constitutes Dalit Sahitya? Explain with reference to the introduction by Eleanor Zelliot.

Or

Critically comment on the 'Untitled poem' by N.T Rajkumar?

3. Discuss Indian Pride and Indian Prejudice that M.K Naik talks about in the introduction to writing in English?

Or

Critically examine the relationship between Regional Indian Literatures and Indian Writing in English.

Part 2

1. Elucidate the main arguments that Sisir Kumar Das makes in his essay 'The Mad Lover'.
2. Discuss the socio-political reforms brought about by the sufi and bhakti traditions in the medieval India.
3. The Story 'Lajwanti' written by Rajinder Singh Bedi, deals with the plight of the abducted women in the aftermath of partition. What is the significance of the title 'Lajwanti' to the story.
4. Why, according to Sujit Mukherjee, do western models of literary history fall in the context of India? What are some of his propositions for evolving a more suitable approach to the writing of Indian Literary histories?
5. Write a short note on how Sujit Mukherjee compares the influence of English and Sanskrit on regional literature in India.
6. Examine Mahadevi Akka's *Vachana* as a poem challenging social norms.
7. How does Mahadeviyakka perceive her lord in the Vachana? Discuss with reference to the text.
8. Write a short note on Hindustani.

9. Amrit Rai proposes that Hindi and Urdu originated from the common language known as Hindavi or Hindustani. What are the various arguments Amrit Rai proposes to substantiate his argument.

10. What are some approaches that literary historians should keep in mind for the study of Indian Literatures?

11. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Neither I know the secret of religion
Nor am I born of Adam and Eve.
I have given myself no name.
I know not who I am.*

- a. Identify the poet. In what language this poem is written originally?
- b. Contextualize the given lines
- c. Who is the 'I' in the given lines
- d. Comment on the form of the poem
- e. What is the significance of the line "I know not who I am"?

12. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The loved one tricked me and went away
If I could find him, I will keep
Him in my heart with love always*

- a. Identify the poet and the name of the poem
- b. Contextualize the given lines
- c. What is the unique feature of the poem's language
- d. Describe the form in which the poem is written

PART 3

Units: Unit 7: Womenspeak: Examples from Kannada and Bangla

Unit 8: Literary Cultures: Gujarati and Sindhi

Unit 7 Chapter 1. A.K Ramanujan. *A Flowering Tree*

Q1) Do you think that the tale *A Flowering Tree* portrays the violence against women prevalent in society? Explain. (5)

Q2) A.K. Ramanujan's *A Flowering Tree* brings out many issues related to women's roles in society. Explain. (8)

Unit 7 Chapter 2. Nabaneeta Deb Sen. *A Woman's Retelling of the Rama-Tale*

Q1) "We have here a narrative about a woman, narrated by a woman, meant for women audience"

Do you think this is true about the Chandrabati Ramayan? Give reasons why. (5)

Q2) "Are we to note this as a silencing tactic? It is no wonder that this text had been silenced by the urban literate male mediators in the role of literary historians."

1) Name the author and the extract

2) Why do you think the silencing has taken place?

3) Identify ways in which the mentioned extract is a silenced text and why. (2+3+3=8)

Unit 8 Chapter 1 Gujarati Literary Culture

Q1) What, according to Sitanshu Yashaschandra, is the relationship between Gujarati and other languages? (5)

Q2) "A new conception of... literary culture...was inaugurated by the *bhakti* poet Narasimha Mehta"

- 1) Name the author and extract from which these lines have been taken.
- 2) Is the bhakti genre widely prevalent in this culture? Explain.
- 3) Discuss the significance of Mehta's contribution to his context and culture.
(2+3+3=8)

Unit 8 Chapter 2 Sindhi Literary Culture

Q1) Discuss the impact of Partition on Sindhi literary culture. (5)

Q2) Discuss the various obstacles in the establishment of a stable identity for Sindhi culture in India. (8)