

Central University of Jammu  
Department of English and Comparative Literature  
Question Paper  
End Semester Examination  
MA Semester II

Course Title: Writings of Exile and Diaspora  
Course Code: PGECL2E005T

Time: 3 hrs.  
Marks: 100

The paper contains 3 sections A, B, C. All sections are compulsory

Section A

(Marks: 10\*1.5=15)

1. "Imaginary Homelands" is written as a justification for :
  - a. Writing *Midnight's Children*
  - b. Writing about India
  - c. Writing in English
  - d. Writing as a Diaspora
2. Exile and diaspora studies frequently engage with questions about concepts such as:
  - a. Displacement
  - b. Dislocation
  - c. Home
  - d. All of the Above
3. According to Stuart Hall "cultural identities" are:
  - a. Contingent
  - b. Shared
  - c. Historical
  - d. All of the above
4. "The Golden Gate" is a novel in verse composed of :
  - a. 500 stanzas
  - b. 590 stanzas
  - c. 600 stanzas
  - d. 690 stanzas
5. "Search for My Tongue" is a poem about:
  - a. Nostalgia
  - b. Memory
  - c. Crisis of Identity
  - d. Fear of a foreign tongue
6. What/who saves Ashoke's life in the memorable train wreck on the way from Calcutta to Jamshedpur?
  - a. His grandfather
  - b. A friendly fellow passenger
  - c. The book he has been reading
  - d. Some volunteers
7. The name of Mr. Biswas's sister Dehuti's husband is :
  - a. Bhandat
  - b. Dhari
  - c. Ramchand
  - d. Seth
8. Mr. Biswas calls Owad and Shekhar, Mrs. Tulsi's only sons:
  - a. The little gods
  - b. The little toads
  - c. The great gods
  - d. The teapots
9. What is the name of the blind girl charged with adultery under the *Hadood* Ordinances introduced by General Zia in Pakistan:
  - a. Safia Bibi
  - b. Famida
  - c. Jehan Mian
  - d. Mazda
10. Which one of the following are **not** Feroza's roommates in Denver:
  - a. Gwen
  - b. Jo
  - c. Rhonda
  - d. Bill

**Section B****(Marks: 5\*8=40)**

Answer the following questions in about 150-200 words.

1. Discuss briefly Stuart Hall's concept of "cultural Identity" according to his essay "Cultural Identity and Diaspora."  
OR

Write a short note on the term 'the Diasporic Imaginary as developed by Vijay Mishra.

2. Write a critical appreciation of Sujata Bhatt's poem, "Search for my Tongue."  
OR

Briefly comment on "On Opening a Box My Mother Left in My House." as a poem about Memory and Nostalgia.

3. In what way does the death of Ashoke change Nikhil/Gogol's life?  
OR

Critically evaluate Maushami's role in *The Namesake*.

4. Examine critically Hanuman House as a symbol.  
OR

Discuss briefly the significance of religious belief in *A House for Mr. Biswas*.

5. Comment on the reasons for Zareen Ginwalla's unease at bringing up her daughter in Pakistan in the 1980s in *The American Brat*.  
OR

Discuss briefly Nafeez's relationship with her husband Iqbal in "A Lady from Lucknow."

**Section C****(Marks: 3\*15=45)**

Answer any three of the following questions in about 250- 300 words.

1. Write an essay on the relationship between the past, memory and nostalgia in the writings of Diasporic writers according to Salman Rushdie in his "Imaginary Homelands."
2. Critically evaluate the literary merits of the poem "House of a Thousand Doors"
3. Examine critically the significance of the title *The Namesake*.
4. Would you describe the life of Mr. Biswas as a comedy or a tragedy? Discuss with illustrations from the text.
5. Discuss *An American Brat* as a diasporic 'coming of age' novel.