

2024

ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-5036

(Literature of the Indian Diaspora)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions

1. Answer the following as directed : $1 \times 10 = 10$

(a) Who is Pipa in *The Book of Secrets*?

(b) The diary entries in *The Book of Secrets*
stop abruptly in the year _____. (Fill in the blank)

(c) Name the Indian diasporic community
mentioned in *The Book of Secrets*.

(d) Who is the only bachelor mentioned in
Chapter 3 of *Anita and Me*?

(e) Meena resisted all her mother's attempt
to teach her—What is it that Meena's
mother wanted to teach her?

(2)

(f) As a child, what was Maneck's favourite day of the week?

(g) Who is Maxine?

(h) *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry is set during the _____ in 1975-77 in India.
(Fill in the blank)

(i) What does Ashoke give to Gogol for his fourteenth birthday?

(j) Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli were born in _____.
(Fill in the blank)

2. Give very brief answers to the following questions : $2 \times 5 = 10$

(a) Why was Mariamu's marriage strained after the birth of her son?

(b) What did Mr. Christmas's death remind Meena's parents of?

(c) Why didn't Meena's parents have a shrine in their home?

(d) How is Ashima affected by Ashoke's death?

(e) Who is Nusswan?

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(Continued)

(3)

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

$5 \times 4 = 20$

(a) What is the significance of the title, *The Book of Secrets*?

(b) How did the children in the novel, *Anita and Me* get exposed to the forbidden secrets of the adult world?

(c) How does Daljit and Shyam's relation portray the meaning of love and marital bliss for Meena?

(d) How does Dina's position within her family reflect the position of women in her culture and social class?

(e) Comment on Ashima's feeling of alienation in *The Namesake*.

(f) Analyze, in your own words, Rohinton Mistry's take on the Emergency as revealed in the narrative of *A Fine Balance*.

4. Answer any four of the following questions :

$10 \times 4 = 40$

(a) Analyze *The Book of Secrets* as an Indian diasporic novel. Give illustrations from your reading of the novel.

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(Turn Over)

- (b) Critically comment on the fragmented nature of history in Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*.
- (c) Discuss how the individual is affected by the larger socio-political changes in the public sphere in *A Fine Balance*.
- (d) "The novel gives us a vivid picture of life for members of the untouchable caste in remote villages." Elucidate the statement in the light of your reading of *A Fine Balance*.
- (e) Critically evaluate the Meena-Sam lowbridge relationship in *Anita and Me*.
- (f) How does Meena deal with cultural hybridity and identity crisis in the novel, *Anita and Me*?
- (g) Make an assessment of Gogol's identity crisis and his transformation in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*.
- (h) "Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* explores the experiences of second-generation Indian immigrants in the United States." Give a well-reasoned answer in the light of this statement.

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