

**CARMEL COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE FOR WOMEN,
NUVEM, GOA**

B.A. CBCS Semester VI

Subject: English DSC Paper Code/ Name: END 107 Literature of the Indian Diaspora

Total marks: 80 Date: 14/06/2022 Duration: 2 hours Total No of Pages: 02

Instructions: 1. All questions are compulsory.

2. Figures to the right indicate marks allotted to the question.

Q1. Answer any four of the following in approximately 100 words each. (4x4 = 16)

- a) Write a note on the significance of the title – *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.
- b) Write a note on the narrative technique of *The Book of Secrets* by M.G. Vassanji.
- c) Analyse how Dukhi's hopes for a better future for his children are destroyed by the forces of the caste system in the novel *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.
- d) In *The Book of Secrets* by M.G. Vassanji, why were the youth weeping at Parviz's funeral?
- e) Write a note on Mariamu from *The Book of Secrets* by M.G. Vassanji.
- f) Rajaram – hair collector to 'holy' man in Rohinton Mistry's *A Fine Balance*.

Q2. Answer any four of the following in approximately 100 words each. (4x4 = 16)

- a) What are the symbols of identity and cultural importance in *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri?
- b) Write a note on the Gogol–Moushumi relationship v/s the Gogol–Maxine one.
- c) In diasporic novels, personal and public histories can often overlap. Substantiate with examples of novels you may have read or studied.
- d) Diasporic literature is often tinged with nostalgia and melancholia. Substantiate with an illustration from *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri.
- e) Analyse the character of Ashoke Ganguli.
- f) Examine the Ganguli family's attempts at assimilation while pursuing the American Dream.

Q3. Answer any one of the following questions set on *The Book of Secrets* by M.G. Vassanji. (12)

A) Evaluate the life of Pipa, a central figure in *The Book of Secrets* by M. G. Vassanji. Do you think he is a tragic figure?

OR

B) Write an essay on the different diasporas portrayed in Vassanji's Tanzania in *The Book of Secrets*.

Q4. Answer any one of the following questions set on *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. (12)

A) Justify whether you agree with the view that *A Fine Balance* is a tragic novel.

OR

B) It has been said that all literature is political in one way or another. Also, that literature engages us and arouses our emotions in a way a newspaper column cannot. Examine *A Fine Balance* in the light of this statement.

Q5. Answer any one of the following questions set on *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. (12)

A) From the young girl who impishly puts her feet into her prospective groom's shoes to 'a widow, on the verge of another sort of departure.....laughing at a story a friend is telling her', evaluate the growth and transformation of Ashima Ganguli.

OR

B) Love and obligation are important themes in *The Namesake*. Discuss.

Q 6. Answer any one of the following questions in approximately 400 words. (12)

A) How does the sense of displacement differ between the characters of the two novels - *A Fine Balance* and *Namesake*? Explain using a few examples.

OR

B) Analyse the premise that diasporic literature traces the birth of a new culture with aspects from multiple cultures. Illustrate from the texts included in your course of study.
