

# Bamanpukur Humayun Kabir Mahavidyalaya

Department of English

Semester\_VI (English Honours)

Assignment for Session: Jan-June, 2021 (Modified syllabus for Covid-19)

PAPER: ENGADSE05T- (PARTITION LITERATURE)

In-charge: *Shiv Narayan Verma*

## Group-A (Poetry)

Answer any one question from the following: (out of two in End Sem.) 1x15= 15

[Long question and RTC not to be attempted from the same text]

1. How does the poet Jibananda Das in his poem ‘ *I Shall Return to This Bengal*’ employ images of nature to signal loss and longing for a lost home. Illustrate with examples.
2. Discuss the central idea in Gulzar’s poem *Toba Tek Singh*.

**Locate and annotate the following (Any one out of two)**

**5x1= 5**

1. *Or maybe a duck — a young girl's — bells on my red feet,*

*Drifting on kalmi-scented waters all the day:*

*For love of Bengal's rivers, fields, crops, I'll come this way*

*To this sad green shore of Bengal, drenched by  
the Jalangi's waves.*

2. *Perhaps you'll see a glass-fly ride the evening breeze,  
Or hear a barn owl call from the silk-cotton tree;  
A little child toss rice-grains on the courtyard grass,  
Or a boy on the Rupsa's turgid stream steer a dinghy  
With torn white sail — white egrets swimming through red clouds  
To their home in the dark. You will find me among their crowd.*

3. *I've to locate that mad fellow  
Who used to speak up from a branch high above:  
"He's god  
He alone has to decide — whose village to whose side."*

4. *Slay that "Bhuri", none will come to claim her now.  
That girl who grew one finger every twelve months,  
Now shortens one phalanx each year.*

## Group- B (Novel)

Answer any one of the following: : (out of two in End Sem.)

1x15=15

1. Comment on the significance of the arrival of the train in Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan.
2. What is the significance of the title of Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan?
3. "The trauma of the Partition can only be represented through a broken language". Do you agree? Elaborate with reference to any text in your course.

## Group- C (Short Stories)

Answer any one of the following: : (out of two in End Sem.)

1x15=15

1. In Manto's *Toba Tek Singh*, madness is a trope through which Partition is viewed and rejected. Do you agree?
2. Write a note on the significance of asylum in Manto's *Toba Tek Singh*.
3. How does Manto question sanity in '*Toba Tek Singh*' by setting the story in a lunatic asylum?
4. What circumstances led to the Partition of India in 1947? What critique of partition does Manto offer in "*Toba Tek Singh*"?
5. Write a note on question of identity as found in Manto's *Toba Tek Singh*.
6. Discuss the story *Toba Tek Singh* as a satire on partition.
7. How do the man and the place become synonymous with each other in Manto's '*Toba Tek Singh*'?
8. How does Manik Bandopadhyay's '*The Final Solution*' capture the transition from a 'human world' to a 'bestial world' caused by the Partition?
9. Discuss the *Final Solution* as a story of revenge and redemption.
10. Manik Bandopadhyay's story *The Final Solution* presents a gendered experience of the Partition. Discuss.
11. How does Mallika, in Manik Bandopadhyay's '*The Final Solution*', represent the condition of women after the Partition?
12. '*The Final Solution*' foregrounds the female body as a site for political and sexual contest. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

**Internal Assessment (Answer any two questions)**

10x2=20

1. Critically examine Intizar Hussain's interweaving of history and myth in *Basti*
2. "*Basti* is a novel about multiple partition yet it embodies an unpartitioned consciousness." - Do you agree? Give reasoned answers.
3. Critically comment on the title of Intizar Husain's novel *Basti*.
4. *Basti* is a novel that fuses Hindu, Islamic, Christian, Buddhist and Judaic elements. Critically comment.
5. "*Basti* is a novel that mixes different narrative modes with extraordinary skill to describe a crisis that as spiritual and universal as it is national."- Discuss