

1 (Sem-6/FYUGP) ENG 63 MJ

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ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG0600304

(North-East Indian Literature)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions.*

1. Answer the following as directed : 1×8=8

(a) Who is the poet of *Forest-1987*?

(b) In the poem *Native Land*, the poet talks of losing his 'tenuous humanity', by which he means a state where the essential qualities of being human are

(i) weak and fragile

(ii) strong

(iii) robust

(iv) tough

(Choose the correct option)

(2)

- (c) How does the poet describe the flute player?
- (d) According to Mamang Dai, in the language of Adis the word 'Pensam' means
- (i) the middle ground or the hidden spaces of the heart
 - (ii) the narrow boat that we call life
 - (iii) the remote village in Arunachal Pradesh
 - (iv) the land of the dawn lit mountains
- (Choose the correct option)
- (e) Who is the protagonist of *No Land Is Her Land* ?
- (f) How did Kuhila Bai's son die?
- (g) Who is the narrator of the story, *An Old Man Remembers* ?
- (h) Where did the narrator meet Nilotpal at the beginning of the story *Gogoponti Lakratua* ?

(3)

2. Answer any six of the following questions :

2×6=12

- (a) According to the poem *Forest-1987*, what familiar sounds does the speaker miss?
- (b) What, according to Nongkynrih, are the morning sounds of home?
- (c) What does the poet dream of while listening to the flute player?
- (d) Why did the people banish Pinyar, the widow, after her house caught fire?
- (e) Which is the native place of the protagonist of the story *No Land Is Her Land* ? Where did she take refuge?
- (f) What does the old man's neighbour inform Sashi about his friend Imlikokba?
- (g) After the death of her husband, how did Kuhila Bai manage to survive with her son?

(4)

- (h) Why was the narrator surprised to see Nilotpal?
- (i) Why did Nilotpal go to the bank?
- (j) Name two important female characters of *The Legends of Pensam*, and mention one defining trait of each.

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) The *Madhavi* flower's fragrance is described as escaping 'the rustle of spring air' only to be overcome by gunpowder. Analyse this image as a representation of nature's vulnerability in the face of human conflict as presented in the poem, *Forest-1987*.
- (b) How does the poem *Native Land* depict the suffering faced by the native Manipuri people and also their unwavering endurance in the face of ethnic or political conflict?

(5)

- (c) Discuss the impact of modernity on the Adi community as depicted in *The Legends of Pensam*.
- (d) How does the story *An Old Man Remembers* portray the effects of war on families?
- (e) "Exile and displacement are key themes of *No Land Is Her Land*." Critically comment.
- (f) What does the title *An Old Man Remembers* suggest about the narrative perspective of the story? Who is remembering, and from what point in time? 3+2=5
- (g) Critically analyse Kuhila Bai's role in the story *Celebration*.
- (h) Make a character assessment of Nilotpal. How is the diversity of his personality reflected in the story *Gogoponti Lakratua*?

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions :

10×2=20

- (a) "Like the rooster, I too, seem/to have become obsolete." How does Nongkynrih present his concern at the fast-decaying tribal culture in the face of modernisation and the resultant cultural loss and emptiness for which he feels obsolete?
- (b) Examine the theme of identity in *The Legends of Pensam*. How do the characters navigate their personal and cultural identities? 5+5=10
- (c) What does the title of the story *Celebration* signify?
- (d) "*No Land Is Her Land* focuses on the identity crisis of a woman who never feels she belongs anywhere." Discuss.

- (e) How does the story *An Old Man Remembers* reflect the "universal themes of reflection and the enduring influence of the past on the present"? Do you think the old man's memories are a source of strength, pain, or both? Justify your answer with reference to the text.

2+8=10
