

2025

ENGLISH

(Minor)

Paper: ENG0500504

(Life Narratives)

(Set—B)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) Who called John Dryden the 'father of English literature'?

(b) In *Life of Dryden*, what famous phrase did Pope use to describe the variety and quality of Dryden's work?

(c) Who is the subject of Hurston's book, *The Last Known Survivor of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*?

(d) In which year did Hurston interview the last slave of the trans-Atlantic slave trade?

(2)

- (e) How many siblings did Chughtai have?
- (f) What was Chughtai's father's profession?
- (g) Who encouraged Chughtai to excel academically?
- (h) Why did Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon* remained unpublished for nearly a century?

2. Answer any six of the following questions :

$$2 \times 6 = 12$$

- (a) According to Johnson, what was Dryden's greatest contribution to English literature?
- (b) What is Johnson's opinion on Dryden's judgement of his own works?
- (c) What does Lahiri mean by the term 'Copertina'?
- (d) What does the concept of the 'naked book', as stated by Lahiri, stand for?
- (e) What happened to the slave ship 'Clotilda' when it arrived in Alabama?
- (f) How does Dickinson describe friendship in her letters to Abiah Strong?

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(Continued)

(3)

- (g) What can be inferred about Dickinson's religious views from her letter to A. P. Strong?
- (h) What literary devices does Dickinson use in her letters?
- (i) What was Chughtai's initial feelings about being a girl and how did it change?
- (j) How did Chughtai's family view gender equality in theory versus practice?

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

$$5 \times 4 = 20$$

- (a) What picture does Dickinson give in her letter to her brother, Austin dated November 17th, 1851?
- (b) Analyze the significance of Hurston's decision to preserve the last slave's story in his own dialect.
- (c) Discuss the extent of African involvement in the slave trade as depicted in Lewis' narrative.
- (d) Examine the theme of trauma and memory in Hurston's book.

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(Turn Over)

(e) Describe the concept of Africa town and its importance to Lewis and the other survivors of the 'Clotilda'.

(f) Describe Johnson's assessment of Dryden's humour and wit.

(g) Analyze Johnson's comments on Dryden's poetic style.

(h) Critically analyze Dickinson's letter to Mrs. A. P. Strong.

4. Answer any two of the following questions :

10×2=20

(a) Explain the concept of 'identity' in Hurston's *Barracoon : The Story of the Last Slave*.

(b) "Kossola's story is one of traumas but also of resilience." Elaborate.

(c) Examine how Chugtai addresses taboo subjects such as female sexuality, class conflict and societal hypocrisy in her memoir.

(d) Give a definition of biography. Discuss Johnson's *Life of Dryden* as a biography.

(e) Discuss how Lahiri uses 'clothing' and 'uniform' as metaphors for external presentation versus internal identity.

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