

**Register Number:**

**Date:**

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BENGALURU - 27**

**END-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: JULY/AUGUST 2022**

**M.A. ENGLISH – IV SEMESTER**

**EN 0218: Indian Literature IV**

**Time- 2 ½ hrs Max Marks-70**

**SECTION I**

**I. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 200 words (1X15=15)**

1. "The modern spurt in Dalit literature in India is an attempt to bring to the forefront the experiences of discrimination, violence and poverty of the Dalit.’ Assess the growth of Indian literature particularly with reference to Dalit and minority literature.

2. Discuss the various literary movements in Indian literature. Do you think the voices of the minorities and the marginalized are aptly represented in these movements? Comment suitably.

**SECTION II**

**II. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 150 words. (2X10=20)**

3. Explore the concept of ‘ancestor’ with evidence from the texts discussed in class.

4. Discuss the role of songs and dance in tribal life with reference to *Paraja* by Gopinath Mohanty.

5. Examine identity formation and neo-liberal values with reference to *Margarita with a Straw*

**SECTION III**

**III. Read the following excerpts and answer the questions that follow in about 150 words. (2X10=20)**

**Excerpt I**

III.A. “Foreign made. All of them made in Germany, made in Russia, or made in China.  
We don’t use guns made in India. Let alone good guns, India cannot even make plastic flowers. When asked to make plastic flowers India can only produce toothbrushes.”  
            I said: “That’s a good thing. Of what use are plastic flowers without any  
fragrance?”  
            The leader said: “No one keeps toothbrushes in vases to do up a room. In life a little embellishment has its part.”

III.A. 6. Explain the irony implied in the poem. What does embellishment signify?

**Excerpt II**

III.B. Then she went on, 'We have to labour in the fields as hard as men do and then on top of that, struggle to bear and raise our children. As for the men, their work ends when they've finished in the fields. If you are born into this world, it is best you were born a man. Born as women, what good do we get? We only toil in the fields and in the home until our very vaginas shrivel. ….

As Paatti said, though, it is quite true that the women in our street led hard lives. That's how it is from the time that they are very little. When they are infants in arms, they never let the boy babies cry. If a boy baby cries, he is instantly picked up and given milk. It is not so with the girls. Even with breast-feeding, it is the same story; a boy is breast-fed longer. With girls, they wean them quickly, making them forget the breast. If the boys catch an illness or a fever, they will run around and nurse them with the greatest care. If it's a girl, they'll do it half-heartedly.

III. B. 7. Do you agree with the author that ‘if you are born into this world, it is best you were born a man’? Argue your point of view using the passage and your personal experiences.

**SECTION IV**

**IV. Read the following excerpt from Mamang Dai’s *Escaping the Land* and answer the questions given below in about 5 sentences. (3X5=15)**

IV.A. People said that a few years before leaving their village the rainman had been seized with a bout of madness that lasted for ten days. He crept into a hut and refused to eat or speak. He signalled for things to be brought to him because no one could understand what he was saying. They said a spirit had entered him and he was speaking the language of the gods. Then one burning summer day when the crops were shrivelling in the field, he had emerged out of the dark, closed hut and pointed to the sky. The frightened relatives looked up and saw nothing. It was a blank, empty space shimmering with the heat of the sun. Then the rainman spoke. He said he would fetch the sun and carry it away.

A long ladder of bamboo was constructed with more than a hundred steps. People stood in a circle as this ladder was lifted and held upright by supporting wooden posts. An assistant shaman, the miri irging, was chosen from the Daji clan. He was the man fated to climb this amazing structure.

"I am ready to obey,' said the young man. He put his foot on the first rung and tested it with a thumping movement of his feet. He smiled.

Everything was still and no one said a word. The rainman had looked at him with no expression in his eyes. The young man seemed to hesitate for a fraction of a second. He knew of mystery and magic but now he could not fathom the moment. It was as though a mystical power was moving his body upwards and ever upwards without his will or power to resist. The villagers gathered in the spot were a crowd of eyes and faces that bent backwards as they looked up to follow the disappearing figure climbing up to the sky. Now he was gone from view. Still they tilted their heads back awaiting something, all except the rainman who sat idly with one leg extended and his head bent over some drawings he was making in the dust with a stick. Suddenly, as if an arrow had been shot from the sky a flame of fire streaked down and fell in their midst. There was a smell of burning and a sizzle of flame. The villagers, as if hypnotised, could only rear back, silent, aghast, their eyes bulging in horror as they looked on the burnt, blackened body of the young assistant. The rainman stopped his scribbling and let the stick drop from his hands. The awestruck assembly heard the rumble of thunder. Another deep growl followed and suddenly the croaking of frogs and shrill cries of insects and unseen birds filled the air as a wind started up, bringing with it big, pelting drops of rain. Had the young man stolen the sun for a moment and carried it in his body to allow rain to spring out of hidden clouds? What had the rainman done? Had he sacrificed a human being to fetch the sun and carry it away in his burnt body? Was there an enmity between him and his disciple? Who was to know, least of all ask about these things? The villagers ran to their houses to get out of the rain. Only the rainman was left in the empty clearing Those who dared look back saw him cut the ropes of the supporting poles, letting the ladder slide to the ground where it lay shining in the rain. All this had happened long ago but everyone still believed it.

8. Explain the significance of the event and comment on its implications for tribal life.

9. Why did the rainman sit idly with one leg extended and his head bent over some drawings he was making in the dust with a stick?

10. What aspects of indigenous life do you notice in the passage? Comment on implications.