

**16-12-2022**

**St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous)**

**BA End-Semester Examinations— December 2022**

**Extending the Humanities: CE 5322**

**V Semester Communicative English Elective**

Time allotted: 2 ½ hrs Marks: 70

**Instructions**

* This paper is intended for V Sem Communicative English students
* Answer all the questions as directed.
* You are allowed to use a dictionary
* This paper has three sections and three pages

**I. Answer the following questions in about three paragraphs each: (2x15=30)**

1. What sense of the Humanities have you developed from classroom discussions? What do your experiences as a Humanities student tell you about the relationship between potential and reality in BA courses?
2. Does encountering a language in a school or college setting provide a Humanities experience that is different from studying a subject under the Humanities formally? Dwell on your experiences to provide evidence for your answer.

**II. Read the following passage, taken from a book chapter titled Aging in Film**

The twenty-first century brought with it a panoply of films that featured aging as a central concern. Actors who enjoyed fame in their youth – Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep, Robert Redford, Clint Eastwood, Sylvester Stallone, Jack Lemmon, Judy Dench, Julie Christie, and many others – are featured in roles that explore the process of growing old. While many of these films do little to challenge common attitudes toward growing old – aging is still seen as a state to be avoided, or at least delayed – they do offer variable and complex images of aging, including nuanced treatments of caregiving, terminal disease, sexuality, and intergenerational relationships.

The Iron Lady (2011) explores the experience of aging in the life of one of England’s most powerful and polarizing recent figures, Margaret Thatcher. The film’s portrait of Thatcher (played by Meryl Streep) is intimate and personal rather than purely political. We first see her frail and confused, as she slips out of her apartment to buy a carton of milk in a small, cluttered convenience store. A series of flashbacks explores her life as a teenager in Grantham, England; her entry into politics; her first meeting with her future husband, the successful businessman Sir Denis Thatcher; and the years of her political ascendancy as Britain’s Conservative Party leader and prime minister, when she reigned for fifteen years as “the Iron Lady.” All of these images contrast sharply with the film’s present day scenes of Thatcher’s growing dementia, her struggle with feelings of impotence and isolation, and her increasing reliance on her daughter.

II. A. **Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 150 words each (2x10=20)**

1. The first paragraph mentions many actors who are now aging. Do you see any patterns to this list of names? What does this pattern reveal, if we think about it?
2. Have you watched a film featuring an aging actor? How was the idea of aging handled in the film?
3. The passage tells us that the film moves back and forth between Thatcher’s prime, and her days as a forgotten politician. Does such a narrative structure open out the experience of aging in a constructive way for the audience? Explain your answer.

**III. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 250-300 words: (20 marks)**

1. What picture of legal institutions can one form from watching cinema in India? Pick two films for discussion in such a way that your analysis includes narratives which position justice outside and inside the legal system.
2. Which do you think is the more alienating experience for the average Indian family-going to the police station, or going to the doctor? Why?

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