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

**B.A. EJ/EP– V SEMESTER**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 2023**

**(Examination conducted in November /December 2023)**

**OE 5123 – LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 60**

**This paper contains 3 printed pages and 4 parts**

**PART A**

**I.Answer the following questions in 150 to 200 words. (2X10=20 marks)**

1.Janet Levarie Smarr writes in her essay "SpeakingWomen: Three Decades of Authoritative Females”, “the issue of Boccaccio’s attitudes towards women has evoked considerable debate, especially in the last decade. Arguments are easily found for both cases: that Boccaccio was a feminist ahead of his time, and that he shared the traditional or even misogynistic views of his era.” Which of the two viewpoints do you think is a better assessment of the text? Give reasons.

2. Read the following extract from the poem “The Right Word” by Imtiaz Dharker and attempt a stylistic analysis of the text.

Outside the door,

lurking in the shadows,

is a terrorist.

Is that the wrong description?

Outside that door,

taking shelter in the shadows,

is a freedom fighter.

I haven't got this right .

Outside, waiting in the shadows,

is a hostile militant.

Are words no more

than waving, wavering flags?

Outside your door,

watchful in the shadows,

is a guerrilla warrior

God help me.

Outside, defying every shadow,

stands a martyr.

I saw his face.

**PART B**

**II.Read the following questions and answer in 5-6 sentences each. (4X5=20 marks)**

3. **“**But shouldn’t a man know everything, excel at a host of different activities, initiate you into the intensities of passion, the refinements of life, all its mysteries? Yet this man taught her nothing, knew nothing, wished for nothing.”

Who is referred to here?Discuss how this extract brings out the central theme of the text?

4. “The innkeeper did not think very highly of his guest’s antics,and he decided to cut matters short and give him the accursed order of chivalry then and there, before another misfortune occurred.” What misfortune is being referred to here? Why does the innkeeper call chivalry an “accursed order”?

5. O my mountain hyacinth

What shepherds trod upon you

With clumsy, and rustic foot?

Identify the poet and the poem.What does the reference to hyacinth do in the above passage?

6.“My child,” she said to him in Yiddish,“our sorrow is great. It is boundless.The last thing we need is bloodshed in our home. I don’t wish to see bloodshed in our home ...”

Identify the passage and the writer. Why does the woman speak in Yiddish? What does she mean when she says “our sorrow is great…The last thing we need is bloodshed in our home”?

**PART C**

**III.Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 150- 200 words: (1X10= 10 marks)**

7. A critic writes “In life, the imaginative and the real cannot be fully disentangled; no one views the world altogether objectively. The knight errant, however, utterly confuses the two. Nevertheless, at its heart, idealism is what makes Don Quixote truly brave, generous, and unconditionally determined.” Do you agree that Don Quixote is “truly brave”? Would you characterize him as a hero? Give reasons.

8. “Laughter, which is central to Rabelais’s work, is a sympathetic form of recognition of man’s imperfections and an expression of Rabelais’s response to the wealth and wonder of the world.” Discuss how Rabelais uses humor to bring out man’s imperfections in his text.

**PART D**

**IV. Read the extract from TS Eliot’s “What is a classic?” and answer ANY TWO the following in about 5-6 sentences each. (2X5= 10 marks)**

If there is one word on which we can fix, which will suggest the maximum of what I mean by the term ‘a classic’, it is the word maturity. I shall distinguish between the universal classic, like Virgil, and the classic which is only such in relation to the other literature in its own language, or according to the view of life of a particular period. A classic can only occur when a civilization is mature; when a language and a literature are mature; and it must be the work of a mature mind. It is the importance of that civilization and of that language, as well as the comprehensiveness of the mind of the individual poet, which gives the universality. ... .We must accordingly add, to our list of characteristics of the classic, that of comprehensiveness. The classic must, within its formal limitations, express the maximum possible of the whole range of feeling which represents the character of the people who speak that language. It will represent this at its best, and it will also have the widest appeal: among the people to which it belongs, it will find its response among all classes and conditions of men

9. According to you, which of the two definitions of the word “classic” given in the passage best describes the texts you encountered this semester ? Give your reasons.

10. Do you agree with Eliot that a classic “express(es) the maximum possible of the whole range of feeling which represents the character of the people who speak that language”? Discuss in reference to one text you read, what, if any, were you able to infer about the “character of the people who speak that language” ?

11. Do you agree that a classic has universal appeal “among all classes and conditions of men”? Give reasons.