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

**OE-JN/OE-PY – SEMESTER V**

**SEMESTER EXAMINATION: OCTOBER 2023**

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

**OE 5322—CONTEMPORARY INDIAN 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 150-200 words each: (2 x 10 = 20 marks)**

1. In *Theatre Across Borders,* Abhishek Majumdar says that *Pah-la* started with the question ‘What is the future of non-violence?’.

How does *Pah-la* approach this question? Does it answer it? Explain.

1. How does Nisha Susan’s short story “Teresa” explore and play with the idea of the self?

**PART-B**

**II. Answer the following questions in 5 – 8 sentences each: (4 x 5 = 20 marks)**

1. Comment on the use of the exclamation mark in the title of Hansda Sowvendra Sekhar’s short story “They Eat Meat!” based on your reading of the text.

4**.** In *Pundits from Pakistan*, Rahul Bhattacharya writes:

And before leaving, I brought myself to ask the Kanerias who they supported when India played Pakistan, the sub-continental version of the Tebbit Test—Norman Tebbit, the British MP who demanded ethnic minorities prove their commitment to the nation by supporting the English cricket team in a match against the land of their forebears.

Which phrase in the aforementioned excerpt indicates Rahul Bhattacharya’s discomfort with asking his question? Where does this discomfort stem from?

1. How does love cultivate power in relationships in India, according to Shreyana Bhattacharya’s *Desperately Seeking Shah Rukh*? Do you think that love can exist outside of power hierarchies? Elaborate.
2. In *The Divided Island,* referring to his conversation with Raghavan, Samanth

Subramanian writes: The 1972 constitution also riled him up, he said, but then he confessed sheepishly that he had really only read the full text of the constitution much later — well after he left the Tigers, in fact. ‘Back then, I only learned about it from news reports. But you know, there was talk about it everywhere. Buses were being burned. Black flags were flying in protest. There was no escaping it.’

What do you think caused a shift from indignation to sheepishness regarding the 1972 constitution in Raghavan? What does this shift tell you about the concerns of the fighters, and hindsight?

**PART-C**

**III. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 150-200 words each: (1x10=10)**

1. In “How Real Life Tamil Stories End”, Meena Kandasamy writes: “In these embattled times of caste terror, falling in love is a revolutionary act in itself.” Comment on this statement through your exploration of Nagraj Manjule’s *Fandry*.
2. How does the phrase “Lady Doctors” in the title of Kavitha Rao’s book *Lady Doctors: The Untold Stories of India’s First Women in Medicine* bring out the history of discrimination against women that the profession was steeped in?

**PART-D**

**IV. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in 5—8 sentences each: (2x5=10)**

Read the following excerpt from Lapata’s interview with Kuzhali Manickavel published in *Chapati Mystery*, and answer **any two** of the following questions:

**Lapata**: *In a*[*recent blog*](http://thirdworldghettovampire.blogspot.com/2011/01/what-is-your-native.html)*post on Indian writing in English, you title a section: "Do not have a name like Kuzhali Manickavel." You offer alternative names for other IWE writers (Vikram Seth=>Seth Victor, etc.), but not for yourself. I was thinking Carly McKnieval might be good, what do you think?*

**KM**: I'm actually not qualified to be an Indian Writer in English (people have told me this so it must be true) but I feel like that shouldn't stop me from writing blog posts telling other people what to do, especially when it comes to authenticity for Indian writers in English. Having said that, I'm not sure if Carly McKnieval is the name I'd go with. Carly's fine but I have some reservations about 'McKnieval' because it sorta looks Jewish and Scottish at the same time, which might be confusing for people and may also force me to lie. Because if people were to ask me 'So are you Jewish or Scottish?' then I would have to say 'Yes'. And then if they say 'Oh, I had no idea there were Jewish people in Scottishâ€¦Land.' I would have to say 'Oh my God, Scottish Land is like the most Jewish place ever!'

Actually, I don't mind lying like that because writer authenticity is really important to me and I feel like you need to be prepared to lie and change your name for it and stuff like that.

1. Kuzhali Manickavel says that people have told her that she is not qualified to be an Indian Writer in English. Which assumptions do you think lead to this statement? Who, according to you, is an Indian Writer in English?
2. Why do you think Kuzhali Manickavel offers alternative names for IWE writers? Do you think that author’s names change the reception of their work? Explain.
3. What do you make of Kuzhali Manickavel’s use of the phrase “writer authenticity”?