**ST JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU -27**

**IV SEMESTER – - B.A (OPTIONAL ENGLISH)**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION: April 2024**

**(Examination conducted in May / June 2024)**

**OE 422 – OPTIONAL ENGLISH**

**(For current batch students only)**

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

**This paper contains 2 printed pages and 4 parts**

**PART A**

**Answer ANY FIVE of the following questions in 1-2 sentences each: (5X2=10)**

1. What was the reason for Father Butler’s fury in ‘An Encounter’?
2. What concern did Vladimir have about the Gospels in the Bible?
3. What is the complete title of the novel *The Water Babies* by Charles Kingsley? What genre does the novel belong to?
4. “…how much happier that man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow.” Identify the speaker of these lines, and the text from which it is taken.
5. “Dilation has entirely dominated/your long reality.” Identify the text that ends with this line. What is the ‘long reality’ the speaker is referring to?
6. Zadie Smith quotes from the poems of two famous American poets in her essay “Fascinated to Presume; In Defence of Fiction.” Name the poets. Which of these poets’ work inspired the title of her essay?

**PART B**

**Answer the following questions in 5-8 sentences each: (3X5=15)**

1. Comment on the use of similes and metaphors in the poems “To the Skylark” and “Pied Beauty”. What impact do they create on your reading experience?
2. Mina Loy has employed multiple images in her poem “An Old Woman.” Which of these were employed brilliantly to convey the theme of the poem? Explain why.
3. “… I gave commands;

Then all smiles stopped together. There she stands

As if alive.”

Explain the context in which the above lines have been spoken. What impression does it give you of the speaker?

**PART C**

**Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about 120-150 words each: (2x10=20)**

1. “Like one who, on a lonely road

Doth walk in fear and dread,

And, having once turned round, walks on,

And turns no more his head;

Because he knows a frightful fiend

Doth close behind him tread.”

The above lines from Coleridge’s ‘Ancient Mariner' feature in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Explain the context in which it is used. How would you justify the relevance of the above lines in this context? Explain by commenting on the choice of words in the poem.

1. Sir Peter Hall, who directed the British premiere of *Waiting for Godot* at the Arts Theatre in 1955, recalls that Samuel Beckett “would say, Estragon and Vladimir are like a married couple who've been together too long, they grow old day by day.”

Based on your reading of the play, do you agree with this comparison? How would you like to make sense of the two characters and the nature of their relationship? Substantiate using evidence from the play.

1. Comment on any two limitations women must have faced in Elizabethan England, as highlighted by Virginia Woolf through the fictional narrative of Judith Shakespeare. Have those limitations been removed or replaced in the current society that you are part of? Explain with the help of examples from your personal observations.

**PART D**

**Answer the following question in about 200-250 words each: (1X15=15)**

1. Do you think Zadie Smith has successfully defended fiction in her essay ‘Fascinated to Presume: In Defense of Fiction’? How has her essay informed or changed your perception about fiction? Explain your answer using relevant arguments from the essay.

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