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

**M.A. ENGLISH – IV SEMESTER   
SEMESTER EXAMINATION: APRIL 2024**

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

**EN 0218 – INDIAN LITERATURE IV**

**(For current batch students only)**

**Time: 2 Hours Max Marks: 50**

**This paper contains THREE printed pages, FOUR parts and SEVEN questions.**

**PART A**

**I. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 180-200 words.**

**(1x15=15 Marks)**

1. The historian Gyanendra Pandey notes that all nation-states endorse a hierarchy of citizenship which distinguishes between its unmarked “axiomatic” and “natural” inhabitants and its marked “hyphenated” minorities. The cloud of suspicion hanging over ... .India's hyphenated minorities, means that their citizenship is considered to be of a lesser order than that of Hindus, even as they are routinely expected to prove and perform their loyalty as Indian citizens.

What is your understanding of the terms “natural” and “hyphenated” citizenship? Do you agree with Gyanendra Pandey that “that all nation-states endorse a hierarchy of citizenship which distinguishes between its unmarked “axiomatic” and “natural” inhabitants and its marked “hyphenated” minorities”? Use examples from your texts to illustrate this.

2. Sahitya Akademi’s Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature states in its webpage that “The oral and tribal literature emote current socio-political thought processes of the societies where they are spoken. In this regard, oral literature is always contemporary and current. It is the oral tradition that has helped us save information on human civilization and human coexistence.”

Do you agree with this statement that “oral literature is always contemporary and current”? Discuss with reference to the texts you have come across this semester.

**PART B**

**II. Answer ALL of the following questions in 120-150 words each. (2x10=20 Marks)**

3. Lakshmi Holmstrom says “On the one hand, Sangati teases out the way patriarchy works in the case of Dalit women….But the other thrust of the book is the way it teases out a positive cultural identity as Dalit and woman which can resist upper-caste and upper-class norms.” Discuss how both these aspects are held out in the world of *Sangati.*

4.The unity of the two terms ‘disability’ and ‘sexuality’ is often regarded as incongruous in the popular imagination. *Margarita with a Straw* offers a nuanced and empowering portrayal of disability and desire that challenges ableist and heteronormative assumptions about sexuality and relationships. Discuss how ableism and heteronormativity are encoded in the discourse of desire and desirability? In what ways does the character of Laila challenge these assumptions.

**III. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 75-100 words each. (1x5=5 Marks)**

5. Discuss the motif of madness in Manto’s short story “Toba Tek Singh”.

6. Why do you think the poet repeats the phrase “We are the adivasis” in every stanza of the poem?

**PART D**

**IV. Read the following poem titled Small Towns and Rivers by Mamang Dai and answer the question that follows: (1x10=10 Marks)**

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A shrine of happy pictures

marks the days of childhood.

Small towns grow with anxiety

for the future.

The dead are placed pointing west.

When the soul rises

it will walk into the golden east,

into the house of the sun.

In the cool bamboo,

restored in sunlight,

life matters, like this.

In small towns by the river

we all want to walk with the gods.

What is the significance of the death rituals in the context of the poem? What do you understand when the poet concludes "In small towns by the river,we all want to walk with the gods.”