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

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

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

**EN 0418 – WORLD LITERATURE IV**

**(For current batch students only)**

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

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

**PART A**

**I. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 200-250 words: (1x15=15)**

1. Discuss any two themes pertaining to the relationship between European settlers and indigenous people, using supporting illustrations from the texts you have read.
2. What are some key concerns that you notice in the poems from South Asia that you read?

**PART B**

**II. Answer the following questions in 150-200 words. (2x10=20)**

1. What images does Allen Curnow use to show the sense of alienation faced by the characters in his poem ‘House and Land’.
2. What evidence do you find in Scott’s Poem ‘Canadian Authors Meet’ to conclude that it is a satire?

**PART C**

**III. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 5-6 lines: (1x5=5)**

1. What is the central theme of Hilary Tham’s ‘Becoming a Woman’ ?
2. Who is the narrator in Edwin Thumboo’s poem on the Merlion? Why is this significant?

**PART D**

**IV. Read the following tribute to Atwoos’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* and answer the question that follows in 150-200 words: (1x10=10)**

*The Handmaid's Tale* tells the story of Offred – not her real name, but the patronymic she has been given by the new regime in an oppressive parallel America of the future – and her role as a Handmaid. The Handmaids are forced to provide children by proxy for infertile women of a higher social status, the wives of Commanders. They undergo regular medical tests, and in many ways become invisible, the sum total of their biological parts.

Offred remembers her life before the inception of Gilead, when she had a husband, a daughter and a life. She had been a witness to the dissolution of the old America into the totalitarian theocracy that it now is, and she tries to reconcile the warning signs with reality: "We lived in the gaps between the stories."

Offred's tender remembrances of times past provide relief from the brutality of her new life, in which her body has become a cause of discomfort for her. Her former life is presented through glimpses of her university friends, her husband, her freedom. They are shadowy memories made all the more indistinct by Atwood's lyrical prose, in which facts appear to merge into one another, and history appears immaterial; Offred is kept alive by her inner life, and reality and history become a kind of symbiotic mirage.

Fiercely political and bleak, yet witty and wise, the novel won the inaugural Arthur C Clarke award in 1987, but Atwood has always maintained that the novel is not classifiable science fiction. Nothing practised in the Republic of Gilead is genuinely futuristic. She is right, and this novel seems ever more vital in the present day, where women in many parts of the world live similar lives, dictated by biological determinism and misogyny**.**

1. Based on your own self-study of The Handmaid’s Tale, add any two points to what has been said above. What makes the novel relevant to the present day world in your view?