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Register Number:

DATE:

St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous)

End-Semester Examination- April 2017

II Semester OE 213 - EJP- Optional English

Time allotted: 2 ½ hours Marks: 70

**Instructions:**

**1. You are allowed to use a dictionary.**

**2. This Question paper has THREE sections & TWO printed sheets.**

**3. You will lose marks for exceeding the word limit.**

1. **Read this *akam* poem translated by AK Ramanujan:**

**What Her Friend Said to Her**

Our man of the hills

where the bent green bamboo springs back to the sky

with the spring of an unleashed horse

grows thin longing for our love,

like a tethered bull in summertime,

not knowing that here we are, wasting away

for his sake.

Vittakutiraiya:r (Kuruntokai 74)

**I.A. Answer the following in about 150 words each: (3x10=30)**

1. Comment on the shape of the poem. Does it connect to the theme expressed in any way?
2. How many landscapes can you see in the poem? What do they seem to signify?
3. Pick out the key images in the poem. What do they contribute to the emotional heft of the poem?

**II. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 200 words each: (2x15=30)**

1. Pick three texts from this semester's reading to explain the different ways in which you we can understand the terms modern and modernism.
2. How useful are the terms *novum* and *Homo faber* in explaining/understanding how science fiction works? Give examples from your own reading. Does the idea of a novum work while watching a science fiction film?
3. How does Virginia Woolf's narrative technique allow her to pose questions around the ideas of consciousness and a stable self? What does this do to the idea of characterisation?
4. Explain the method practised by the New Critics using the essays you have read this semester. What understanding of text and interpretation do they seem to provide?

**III.A. Identify the work from which these lines are taken. What do the observations reveal about the speaker, and about the subject of his observations? Answer in about a paragraph. (5 marks)**

And always won he sovereign fame for prize.

Though so illustrious, he was very wise

And bore himself as meekly as a maid.

He never yet had any vileness said,

In all his life, to whatsoever wight.

He was a truly perfect, gentle knight.

But now, to tell you all of his array,

His steeds were good, but yet he was not gay.

Of simple fustian wore he a jupon

Sadly discoloured by his habergeon;

**III. B.**

**Read this excerpt from a short story titled *Cyberpunk* by Bruce Bethke. What elements of science fiction and cyberpunk can you identify from this excerpt? Answer in about a paragraph. (5 marks)**

The snoozer went off at seven and I was out of my sleepsack, powered up, and on-line in nanos. That's as far as I got. Soon's I booted and got--

CRACKERS/BUDDYBOO/8ER

--on the tube I shut down fast. Damn! Rayno had been on line before me, like always, and that message meant somebody else had gotten into our Net-- and that meant trouble by the busload! I couldn't do anything more on term, so I zipped into my jumper, combed my hair, and went downstairs.

Mom and Dad were at breakfast when I slid into the kitchen. "Good Morning, Mikey!" said Mom with a smile. "You were up so late last night I thought I wouldn't see you before you caught your bus.""Had a tough program to crack," I said."Well," she said, "now you can sit down and have a decent breakfast." She turned around to pull some Sara Lees out of the microwave and plunk them down on the table.

"If you'd do your schoolwork when you're supposed to you wouldn't have to stay up all night," growled Dad from behind his caffix and faxsheet. I sloshed some juice in a glass and poured it down, stuffed a Sara Lee into my mouth, and stood to go."What?" asked Mom. "That's all the breakfast you're going to have?""Haven't got time," I said. "I gotta get to school early to see if the program checks." Dad growled something more and Mom spoke to quiet him, but I didn't hear much 'cause I was out the door.

I caught the transys for school, just in case they were watching. Two blocks down the line I got off and transferred going back the other way, and a coupla transfers later I wound up whipping into Buddy's All-Night Burgers. Rayno was in our booth, glaring into his caffix. It was 7:55 and I'd beat Georgie and Lisa there.

"What's on line?" I asked as I dropped into my seat, across from Rayno. He just looked up at me through his eyebrows and I knew better than to ask again.