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ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : 5.6

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Answer the following questions : 1×7=7

- (a) Why is Uma removed from the convent school?
- (b) What is the common link between Jenny Slade and Barbara Ashley in *Roman Fever*?
- (c) Who is the narrator of the story, *Heaven is not Closed*?
- (d) What is the connection between World War I and Mansfield's story, *The Fly*?
- (e) Who is referred to as the 'Pillar of the Church' in *Catholic Mother*?

- (f) Which historical event does Helen Maria Williams refer to in *Letters Written from France*?
- (g) According to what custom is Galethebege married?

2. Give short answer to the following questions :

2×4=8

- (a) "In my days, girls in the family were not given sweets, nuts, good things to eat." Explain the significance of this remark made by Mama in *Fasting Feasting*.
- (b) "I had Barbara."
(i) Who is Barbara?
(ii) Who is 'I'?
- (c) Does the Boss really grieve for his son in *The Fly*?
- (d) Comment on the role of the Missionaries from your reading of *Heaven is not Closed*.

3. Answer any *three* of the following : 5×3=15

- (a) Explain the significance of the characters of 'Mama-Papa' or 'Mrs. Patton' in *Fasting Feasting*.

- (b) Comment on Mrs. Ansley's preoccupation with the activity of knitting in the story, *Roman Fever*.

Or

Briefly describe the Setswana customs of marriage as depicted in Bessie Head's *Heaven is not Closed*.

- (c) Critically comment on the use of the term 'Sister Authoresses' by Mrs. Paradise in the course of her party.

- (d) Explain the following with reference to the context :

"You want me to be like you Papa
Or like Rani Lakshmi Bai,
You are not sure what greatness is
But you want me to be great."

4. Answer any *three* of the following questions :

10×3=30

- (a) Elaborate on how Desai uses 'Food' as a major symbol of patriarchal dominion with reference to the title and illustrations from the text, *Fasting Feasting*.

- (b) Comment on the setting of the story, *Roman Fever* with particular reference to the elements of romance, intrigue and power play as etched out against the backdrop of the Colosseum.
- (c) Explain the significance of the title, *The Fly*, connecting it to the existential dilemma that is embodied in the author's use of the fly as a symbol of man's helplessness against reality.
- (d) Comment on the use of letters, diaries and memoirs by writers like Fanny Burney and Helen Maria Williams to highlight the politics of female identity and contemporary sociohistorical events.
- (e) Examine the poetry of Eunice de Souza and Mamta Kalia in the light of their use of subjective sensibilities to critique patriarchy in Indian society.

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