

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN  
ENGLISH

Term-End Examination

December, 2012

MEG-14 : CONTEMPORARY INDIAN  
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

*Note : Answer all questions. All questions carry equal marks.*

1. Discuss with reference to the context *any four* of the following passages : 4x5=20
- (a) Yesterday or the day before - I met  
Whitman : I met Whitman talking aloud in  
solitude about the populace.
- (b) Fruits make me bow And then I crave to be  
sweet And linger on a palate
- (c) The moon looked like a pancake and The  
hills looked hungry; and the clouds put out  
The fire in western skies.
- (d) And finally, only two titanic tarantulas  
One black, the other with a crimson chest,  
Crept with slow hairy step, like skulkers  
of the night, and hauled her off to their  
invisible lair.
- (e) I have handed over, my notebook of poems  
Long back to Kabir.  
There is no Kabir in this market.

(f) The Dark of the wall  
Louge for that moment of courage,  
When, in full sight of all,  
My hands  
Will stretch out  
For a drink.

2. (a) *Samskara* is at the interface of tradition and modernity, and explores a traditional society's potential to question itself and move ahead, incorporating necessary changes. Discuss. (450 words) 20

**OR**

- (b) Explain the title of the novel '*Tamas*'. (450 words)

3. (a) Discuss the metaphor of chess in '*Tughlak*' (450 words) 20

**OR**

- (b) Trace the relationship between the Sultan and Barani in *Tughlak*. (450 words)

4. Discuss the following : 2x10=20

- (a) (i) The plight of a poor woman in '*Tinny's Granny*.' (200 words)

**OR**

- (ii) The first person narration in '*The Compromise*'. (200 words)

- (b) (i) Issues of ecology and environment Vs the human problems of survival and sustenance in 'Salt'. (200 words)

**OR**

- (ii) The title of the story 'The Empty chest' (200 words)

5. (a) Comment on Bama's reflections on caste and gender politics in India. (450 words) **20**

**OR**

- (b) Despite being a very brief sketch of a single person, 'On Ismat' is a significant commentary on the society in which chughtai lives. Discuss. (450 words)
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