

**MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN
ENGLISH**

Term-End Examination

December, 2015

02631

**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 in about 150 words each :

4×5=20

- (a) Then

They had pressed her down

Piling up log after log on her

A hundred tongues of all consuming flames

Have sprung into life

Villagers watch in a circle

- (b) No, I would continue to stare

at the one hundred bald pates in silence.

The fixed stare of my dead machine-gun.

- (c) The moon looked like a pancake and
 The hills looked hungry; and the clouds put out
 The fires in western skies. But in the east
 The wood nymphs lit the moon's cooking stove
- (d) My life – flow
 rolling down my eye —
 “She may not go now
 Shh ! She will hear ! Be silent !”
- (e) Do you have in your land still
 those sages, who,
 eating only their silences,
 counsel their rulers ?
- (f) It's good to have some stones in your heart
 — the cry is then echoed back.
 Since all roads are slippery the stones may
 be spread on them one after another.

2. Which character(s) do you like the most in *Samskara* ? Why ? (450 words)

20

OR

In what specific ways does the title of Bhisham Sahni's novel *Tamas* express the writer's thematic concern ? (450 words)

3. "Muhammad Tughlaq was a synthesis of opposing extremes in his character." Do you agree? Discuss with concrete examples from the text. (450 words) 20

OR

Discuss the motifs of chess and disguise in *Tughlaq*. (450 words)

4. Discuss the following in 250 words each : 2×10=20
(a) Point of view in the story '*Tadpa*'

OR

The part that memory plays in Nirmal Verma's *Birds*

- (b) Title of the story '*The Empty Chest*'

OR

'The Compromise' as an allegory

5. What qualities of Ismat Chughtai appeal to Manto the most? (450 words) 20

OR

In what way is *Manimahesh* a personal memoir rather than an objective traveller's guide to the land and its people? (450 words)