

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
First Year Second Semester
ENGLISH
Indian Writing in English

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

- 1) "The demands of economy, both national and global, create a thrust towards a homogenisation of culture, and in India the language that can most effectively achieve this is English, which is the language of upward social mobility." Do you agree with this observation? Answer with close reference to the texts you have read in this course.
- 2) Critically analyse the kinds of education that Swami receives in the two schools that he attends in Malgudi. How do they contribute to Swami's growth as a young boy in R.K. Narayan's *Swami and Friends*?
- 3) In his novel *All about H. Hatterr* how does Desani critique the compartmentalization of the material and spiritual spheres within Indian nationalist discourses?
- 4) How does Attia Hossain represent Lucknow, "Ashiana" and the house in Hasanpur in *Sunlight on a Broken Column*? How would you read Laila's last visit to "Ashiana"?
- 5) How does Butalia read the 'invisibility' of the Dalits into Partition narratives in *The Other Side of Silence*? Discuss with reference to the text.
- 6) In what ways does Salman Rushdie envision the imaginary homelands in *Midnight's Children*?
- 7) "In *The God of Small Things* Arundhati Roy separates English from English-speakers. She reappropriates the language not only to portray complex characters and narrative themes, but also to create a postcolonial discourse that criticizes, questions and subverts the old dominance of the imperial colonizer." Discuss.
- 8) The term 'traumatic realism' has been used to describe *Delhi Calm*. How useful is this description? Discuss.
- 9) "For individuals, poems and cultures, Ramanujan envisions endings that can never be fully controlled or predicted, endings that are openings into new worlds, new metamorphoses." Analyse with reference to the poems you have read.