

M.A. 4th SEMESTER EXAMINATION, 2022

ENGLISH

Course Code: ENG 409 ME(I)

Course ID: 40361

Course Title: *Australian Literature I*

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 40

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Answer all the questions.

UNIT I

1. Answer *any one* of the following questions:

12x1 = 12

- a) Briefly delineate a few major Australian myths as represented by Bruce Bennett in his essay. Do you think A.D. Hope's 'Australia' subscribes to those myths?
- b) Discuss how Patrick White's *The Tree of Man* deals with issues of white settlement in Australia.
- c) Consider Judith Wright's 'Bora Ring' as a poem lamenting the loss of a glorious Aboriginal past.
- d) Discuss how Barbara Baynton's 'The Chosen Vessel' was "savagely edited by the *Bulletin's* A.G. Stephens because its murderous swagman was seen as a threat to the national legend of the clean-living bushman." Would you consider Henry Lawson's 'The Drover's Wife' to be uncritically complicit with that legend?

UNIT II

2. Answer *any one* of the following questions:

12x1 = 12

- a) Would you consider Bob Hodge and Vijay Mishra's 'Preface to *Dark Side of the Dream: Australian Literature and the Postcolonial Mind*' (1991) as an apologia for aboriginal inclusivity? Critically comment with illustrations from the text.
- b) Explore Oodgeroo Noonuccal's 'We are Going' as a poem of displacement and memorialisation from the Australian indigenous people's perspective.

- c) "*Benang's* magical realist credentials are apparent in its incongruous and ironic representation of fantastical events in a historical narrative". – Consider Kim Scott's *Benang* as a magic realist text.
- d) Discuss how Kim Scott writes from the heart "the most local of histories" in *Benang*.

UNIT III

3. Answer any four of the following short questions:

4 x 4 = 16

- a) How could exile lead to a multiplication of myths around a new pluralist conception of Australia? Briefly explore after Bruce Bennett's 'Australian Myths'.
- b) Comment on Stan's visit to Sidney.
- c) "The song is gone; the dance is secret with the dancers in the earth". – What according to you do the lines signify?
- d) "She waited motionless, with her baby pressed tightly to her, though she knew that in another few minutes this man with the cruel eyes, lascivious mouth, and gleaming knife, would enter". – Locate and annotate.
- e) Briefly explain the critical significance of the following phrase – "the characteristic double vision of Australians".
- f) They came here to the place of their bora ground
Where now the many white men hurry about like ants.
– What do you think the lines signify?
- g) "So, by way of introduction, here I come: The first white man born". Critically comment.
- h) Consider how "the presence of A.O. Neville [in *Benang*] demands the necessity of engagement with history".

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