

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. THIS IS A CLOSED BOOK EXAM.

1. Discuss, with reference to an Indian novel in English that you have read recently, whether it shows features that make it an example of 'Indian' writing. Highlight its important formal characteristics and narrative innovations if any.

[Note: Do not give the plot details or summarize the story in your answer. The novel you choose to write about may be the one you have made your tutorial presentation on, or another book altogether that fits the description.]

(7 marks)

2. Identify the following statements and their speakers and give, briefly, the context they appear in. (You may pick any 6 out of the 8 questions below)

(3*6=18 marks)

i)

'He's a nabob in his own right – made a mountain of mohurs out of the China trade. Ever since he lost his wife every larkin in town's been trying to bundu him. I can tell you, dear, there's a paltan of mems who'd give their last anna to be in your jooties.'

ii)

'It's blood,' he replied, and she fainted. [...]

'But *where* have you *been*, my *God*?'

'Nowhere on earth,' he said, and began to shake in her arms.

iii)

He was overcome by the man's kindness. He was grateful, grateful, haltingly grateful, falteringly grateful, stumblingly grateful, so grateful that he didn't know how he could walk the ten yards to the corner to be out of the sight of his benevolent and generous host.

iv)

'Damn my eyes if I ever saw such a caffle of barnshooting badmashes! A chowdering of your chutes is what you budzats need. What do you think you're doing, toying with your tatters and luffing your laurels while I stand here in the sun?'

v) 'How nice and sweet is the milk-rice pudding, sticking to the white teeth and lingering in the mouth. And kara parshad, the semolina pudding; the hot, buttery masses of it melt almost as you put a morsel of it in the mouth. But the hubble-bubble usually keeps my stomach clean. What happened to this morning's smoke? I smoked for an hour to no effect.'

Dedi.
vi) 'And when you come back, will you bring me bangles? *Hamré khátir churi lelaiya?*'

vii) 'That's a nose to start a family on, my princeling. There'd be no mistaking whose brood they were. Mughal Emperors would have given their right hands for noses like that one.'

viii) 'Lambert-sahib only gave. Just one week before shifting to heavenly-abode. His conditions were extremely parlous; hands were trembling like anything and tongue was also coated. Rigorous constipation must have been there, but still he is reaching to my daftar, in Kidderpore. Just imagine!'

3. "Both Ghosh and Rushdie, in their own distinct ways, base their books upon the plurality and inter-mingling of identities and cultures that make colonial and postcolonial South Asia such a rich and vibrant geography." Discuss this statement with reference to *Sea of Poppies* and *Midnight's Children*

(10 marks)