Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **BA**

II Semester Examination, April/May, 2026

Course Title: **Contemporary Indian Literature** Course Code: **BNEN201DCT**

Time: **3 Hours** Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of three parts: Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part–A contains **10** compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries 1 mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part-B contains 08questions of which students are supposed to answer **05** questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains 05 questions of which students are supposed to answer **03** questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer all the following questions:

i. Indian Writing in English began during the _____ period.
a. Medieval b. Colonial c. Post-independence d. Renaissance

ii. The poem 'Forward March' encourages passive acceptance of social conditions. (True/False)

iii. The poem 'Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S.' satirises:
a. Political corruption b. Indian English speech patterns c. Rural life d. Religious practices

iv. Indian English poets completely reject Indian themes in favour of Western ones. (True/False)

v. The poetry of Jayanta Mahapatra is deeply rooted in the cultural landscape of:
a. Kerala b. Odisha c. Punjab d. Gujarat

vi. The story 'M.C.C.' is set in the fictional town of _____.

vii. In Qurratulain Hyder's story, the falling leaves in the story symbolise:
a. Growth b. Permanence c. Decay and passage of time d. Wealth

viii. 'Thanda Gosht' (Cold Flesh) and 'Khol Do' (Open It) are two short stories written by _____.

ix. The story "Squirrel" was originally written in _____.

x. The poem 'The Female of the Species' suggests that ordinary conversation can conceal deeper emotional communication. (True/False)

Part-B

2. Examine how Ezekiel uses humour to critique social behaviour.
3. Discuss how the poem 'Forward March' functions as a call to action.
4. Analyse the symbolic significance of the mental asylum in 'Toba Tek Singh'.
5. Examine how the formation of the M.C.C. reflects childhood friendship and enthusiasm.
6. Discuss the use of everyday conversation in conveying deeper emotions in 'The Female of the Species'.
7. How does 'Squirrel' portray the marginalization of women's writing?
8. Analyse how the poem 'A Country' expresses disillusionment with political beliefs.
9. Examine how memory shapes the narrative in 'The Sound of Falling Leaves'.

Part-C

10. Examine how the use of Indian English contributes to satire in 'Goodbye Party for Miss Pushpa T.S.'
11. Contextualize and analyse the following lines from 'A Country':
    "Why am I hurt still / by the look in the hand / of that graceful Naxal girl / who appeared out of nowhere that winter, / holding a knife as old as history?"
12. Examine various difficulties faced by Swami and his friends in forming a cricket team in the story 'M.C.C.'.
13. Analyse how Saadat Hasan Manto represents the absurdity of Partition in 'Toba Tek Singh'.
14. Discuss how the books in the library function as symbols of suppressed or forgotten histories in 'Squirrel'.

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