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Reg. No. :

Name :

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, August 2025

English Language and Literature

EL 521 : WORLD LITERATURES I

(2022 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **50** words.

1. What purpose does Dalya Cohen-Mor's sketch serve in introducing Arab women writers?
2. How is female desire portrayed in "Women Like Me".
3. Comment on the psychological impact of the veil in Imtiaz Dharker's "Purdah I".
4. What is the significance of the swagman in "Waltzing Matilda"?
5. What is the symbolic significance of mushrooms in Italo Calvino's *Mushrooms in the City*?
6. What is the central theme of Karin Boye's poem "Of Course It Hurts"?
7. How does Cait's relationship with her mother, Sue, reflect the emotional core of "Last Contact"?
8. What message does Zephaniah convey in "People Will Always Need People"?

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

P.T.O.



II. Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **100** words:

9. Comment on the portrayal of grief in Al-Khansaa's poetry.
10. Discuss Mahmud Rahman's "Kerosene" as a critique of state failure and human desperation.
11. Discuss the experiences of women during Partition as described in Butalia's "Honour".
12. Judith Wright's portrayal of the struggles and resilience of Australia's early settlers in "Bullocky".
13. Maori cultural identity in *Potiki*.
14. Critically analyse the role of the outsider in David Malouf's *Remembering Babylon*.
15. The narrative technique used in *The Dove's Necklace*.
16. Comment on Monica Ali's depiction of multicultural London in *In the Kitchen*.

(5 × 5 = 25 Marks)

III. Answer any **two** of the following questions in about **300** words choosing one from each group.

Group – A

17. Analyse how J.M. Synge critiques class prejudice and societal marginalisation through humour and irony in *The Tinker's Wedding*.
18. Witi Ihimaera's *Yellow Brick Road* reflects the tensions between traditional Māori life and urban migration- Discuss
19. Comment on how Dostoyevsky's "The Heavenly Christmas Tree" blends Christian symbolism with a stark portrayal of social neglect.

Group – B

20. Elaborate how *The Sultan's Dilemma* explores the conflict between absolute authority and moral responsibility.
21. Explain the effects of colonialism on individuals and communities with reference to the texts prescribed for study.
22. *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* raises questions about military dictatorship, political conspiracy, and the abuse of power in Pakistan. — Discuss.

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

VI. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

23. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and attempt a one page critical note on the passage.

"I am the street. My name is Abuseer. My skin is of black stones, and I have veins of sewage. I have seen what no human eye has seen, and I have kept secrets buried beneath my surface. I have tasted blood and heard whispers in the dark. I know the weight of silence, and the language of footsteps."

24. Discuss the depiction of women, especially indigenous and marginalized, in Australian and New Zealand literature—focusing on Judith Wright and Patricia Grace—and how these works address colonization, survival and resistance.
25. Examine how contemporary female writers from the Middle East use literature to challenge traditional narratives about gender, identity, and social roles within patriarchal and politically repressive societies.

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

