

**Answer Key: M.A. III Semester English Paper: Indian Literature in English (AS-2012)**

1. i. By performing Sati ii. d. Myths and history iii. False iv. a desert patch v. Orissa

vi. Close the Sky Ten by Ten ;1971: Svayamvara and Other Poems; 1976: A Father's Hours ;1976: A Rain of Rites ;

1979: Waiting;;1980: The False Start; 1980: Relationship ;1983: Life Signs ; 1986: Dispossessed Nests ;1987: Selected Poems ;1988: Burden of Waves & Fruit ;1992: A Whiteness of Bone ;1997: Shadow Space ; 2000: Bare Face 2006: ;Random Descent ;2009: The Lie of Dawns: Poems 1974-2008 2013: Land are some of the collections.

vii. b. Tagore viii.a. Kamala Das ix. c. Location of the bathroom x. Aurobindo

2 a) The lines have been taken from A.K. Ramanujan's poem "Obituary". With a kind of ironic self-reflexivity, the narrator tells about the uneventful life of his father—a common man—who could not help remaining an underachiever.

b) These are words spoken by Kapila in Karnad's *Hayavadana*. Kapila apathetic to all sensations and feelings is pained by the arrival of Padmini. His latent feelings of love, frustration and hurt surface as he demands to know of Padmini her purpose in coming to him.

c) The lines have been taken from Jayanta Mahapatra's poem "Lost" where the narrative voice is of a middle-aged or mature person who confesses his own shortcomings that prevented him from knowing the other. The language is highly suggestive.

d) The given lines are from Canto I of Aurobindo's *Savitri*. Savitri's great fortitude is evident from the start when, even after knowing about the bereavement from Satyavan, she is ready to live with courage, alone, ready to face the calamity not just for her own sake but for the bigger purpose of redeeming the mankind.

ii) a) The lines are from Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Background, Casually". In this autobiographical poem the poet ruminates over his past life and literary pursuits and with some rue tells how his literary pursuits have been materially disadvantageous, and that he would not relive his life the same way.

b) These lines are from Rabindranath Tagore's poem number 103 from *Gitanjali*. In a tone of utmost devotion the poet proposes to submerge his whole identity and self with god. The language used is figurative and suggestive.

c) The given lines are from the poem "Invitation" by Kamala Das. The poet says that her bonds with the material world are breaking down and the call of eternity for her to surrender is making her resistance weak. With a subdued tone of surrender brought forth by disillusionment the poet seems to be telling an invisible lover that there is no reason why she should not accept the invitation.

iii) Assess who 'Kapila' is after the transposition of heads. He should be an equal in exploring the body-mind dichotomy but whether he is or not is a different issue. Probably he is not and is at the receiving end of

things. If the identity of a person is decided by the head it is his mind/soul that suffers, somewhat ironically, at the loss of the body.

iv) Canto I of *Savitri* begins at a crucial point when a god-figure has been sent to the earth for a divine purpose. Savitri retains the divine qualities that instill in her exceeding control, maturity and fortitude. Aware of the great predicament that is going to befall her, she still displays a superhuman personality. Aurobindo shows great poetic powers with an elevated language befitting an epic of visionary dimensions.

Or

Tagore is a great poet and *Gitanjali* his magnum opus. Beautiful imagery, intense feelings and command over the medium, even in the English translation are some of the qualities of this work. However, one can detect a sameness and cloyed emotion in many poems. On the other hand, this monotony is reduced by the beauty of expression and the elevated purpose with which the poet writes.

v) "Background, casually" is an autobiographical poem by the Jewish-Indian poet, Nissim Ezekiel. In this he describes objectively but with insight and irony his progress in life since childhood. In spite of this, his emotional take on things and his hurts as well as growth can be seen in the poem. He seems in search of belongingness though, divided between two places and value systems.

vi) "Love Poem for a Wife" is written from a husband's point of view in which the husband looks with humour and understanding at his wife. He treats his wife as an equal and loves her so much that even wants to share her past. The poem is written in an unaffected style.

vii) The sensibility of Kamala Das is essentially feminist. No doubt, the basic female traits exist in her and she is an emotional and sensitive poet but her poetic sensibility is an outpouring of hurts and protest. The spirit of adventure, freedom, individuality unaffected by the male hegemony are some features of her poetry. She is fiercely assertive about her will and choice, even in making mistakes. Das is not afraid to speak out, she is unperturbed about the reception that the male-dominated world gives her. She is confessional too, vocalizing her mistakes and wrong choices. Her contribution to Indian writing by women is immense.