

## Part II

### POETRY

(Answer one question only)

2. To the Nile explores the similarities between the Nile and other rivers.  
Discuss. (15 Marks)

- The poet persona presents two aspects of the Nile.
- In the octave he finds mythical and legendary aspects which are revealed by his references to divine origins.
- Nile is venerated for it had fed great ancient civilizations.
- River Nile is associated with the legendary history of people who built pyramids.
- The poet persona is anxious to know whether the Nile is an ordinary river or an extraordinary one.
- In the sestet he casts away the illusionary picture of the Nile and explores the similarities between the Nile and the other rivers.
- Like other ordinary rivers in England the river Nile too waters the vegetation along its banks.
- The Nile creates a romantic picture as the morning sun shines on its water.
- Like other ordinary rivers the Nile has formed deltas and islands.
- It courses its way to the sea like any other river.
- The use of rhetorical question and visual imagery help effectively to bring out the theme.

3. Discuss how a sense of social conflict is presented in the poem **Big Match, 1983**

(15 Marks)

- A conflict in both the capital (Colombo) and North is presented.
- The two nuances of the term big match are juxtaposed to present the social conflict and its effect on civilian life.
- As the title implies it is a game for a small group but for a helpless majority it is a horrendous and frightful experience.
- The poet presents politico-social factors which initiated the social conflict. "Treacherous politics of language" Violence is generated by opportunistic politicians based on language and race.
- Innocent civilians are victimized by the uncontrollable mob. Even the intellectuals who represent wisdom of a country are not spared.
- Military organizations are formed in Jaffna "out of the Palmyra fences"
- The violence is aimed at soldiers, businessmen, even the children. Property is plundered. Relationships formed in their childhood and youth are violated by 'pities and politics'.
- Victims who find protection in religious institutions are not spared too.
- The use of irony is very effective to present the sense of social conflicts as it is directed at many levels such as expatriates, media, friends, policeman, neighbors etc.
- The metaphor of match is effective as it intensifies irony.

4. Farewell to Barn and Stack and Tree poetically depicts the emotional conflict of an individual. Discuss. (15 Marks)

- The story unfolds as a scattered narrative depicting the emotional conflict of the individual poetically.
- The individual has done a punishable crime which would not be forgiven by the society or his own conscience. He does not want to conceal the crime committed by his impulsive anger.
- His inner conflict is revealed as he bids farewell to his familiar rural setting. The ballad form cinematically depicts the emotional conflict.
- His emotional conflict intensifies as he thinks of his mother who would suffer at the loss of her two sons.
- The symbols he has used (barn, stack, tree, scythe and rake, rick and fold are quite appropriate to depict his mental conflict poetically.
- He suffers a mental trauma as he feels that he has to say goodbye to his friend and also to his humble profession, farming.
- Implications show that the conflict has originated from love.
- The pathos created by mental agony is poetically conveyed as he reflects over harvesting festival and the pleasures related to it.
- The use of imagery and irony plays a vital role express the individual's mental agony.
- The poet uses 'suggestion' very effectively to help the reader reconstruct the narrative.

5. Examine the significance of the poetic techniques used in the poem **The Earthen Goblet**. (15 Marks)

- The goblet is personified and throughout the poem its voice is heard. It is significant as the transformation of nature and the sufferings it underwent are expressed.
- It also enables the reader to compare and contrast similar situations.
- The use of flashback technique paves way for the goblet to reflect on the process of transformation.
- As it reflects on the process his true feelings are revealed.
- The intimate relationship between the lump of clay and the fragrant flowers gives the implication of pulsing love rooted in an unsophisticated setting.

#### Use of symbolism

- ✓ Lump of clay implies nature, natural way of life while the goblet signifies refined, sophisticated way of life.
- ✓ The potter's wheel shows the industrialization - through a simple machine. It shapes and changes the lump of clay into a crimson goblet.
- ✓ Little flower signifies innocent, deep rooted relationships.
- ✓ The metaphors twisted, held me captive convey the painful experience that the lump of play underwent.



6. Discuss how abnormality results in humor as presented in the poem **Upside Down**.  
(15 Marks)

- A number of actions have been employed to show the abnormal behaviors of the central character. They are exaggerated and evoke laughter. The actions are repeated evoking more laughter.
- He acts in the exact opposite way when he is asked to do something. When the simple commands are not met correctly humor is created.
- His inability to understand simple situations like sailing in a boat is absurd. This absurdity creates humor.
- His style of reading and writing is different from the way of sensible people.
- The Upside-Down's fear of crossing a bridge is abnormal which evokes laughter.
- When the normal practice is asking for food in a box at a restaurant Upside-Down asks for a pair of socks with clocks on them.
- At the circus in the town the center of attraction is not the clown but Upside-Down.
- Apart from the series of actions humour is created through the light rhythm and rhyme, end rhyming and internal rhyming.
- The alternative alignment of verses from left to right suggests disorder.

7). Explore with examples the significance of the title of the play "The Bear" for its main theme/s.

(15 Marks)

- The candidate may bring out one or more of the following themes.
  - ✓ Inconsistency (change) of human behaviour
  - ✓ Hypocrisy-true nature of the people is just the opposite how they exhibit in their behaviour.
  - ✓ Unfaithfulness towards partners (infidelity)
  - ✓ Male Chauvinism
- A bear is a wild animal possessed with qualities such as: restlessness, aggressiveness and violence.
- It is also an animal with physical features like: strength, roughness, forcefulness, harshness and ferocity.
- Title itself suggests a strong, rough person with ill mannered, bear type, boorish qualities
- The behaviour of Smirnov proves the appropriacy of the title quite well
  - Smirnov forces himself uninvitedly into the dining room
  - His chauvinistic behaviour is mannerless and impolite. He harasses and scolds the old servant.

*"You fool; you're too fond of talking"*

*"Shut up! Who are you talking to? I'll chop you into pieces"*

- He has no self-control. He is strong and harsh. He damages even the furniture.

*"He grips the back of a chair; the chair creaks and breaks"*

- Popova too uses abusive language which may support the bear type behaviour. She too becomes chauvinistic and tough by accepting the challenge. She chases Smirnov away. Her rough behaviour too supports the suitability of the title. The title "The Bear", which brings forth a person with boorish qualities and also a woman with certain harsh qualities (at the end she becomes rough and tough) in turn paves way to highlight the behaviour that supports each of the themes.
- ❖ Smirnov who is firm in his stand at the beginning, determines not to leave without money, condemns and insults women in general, hates the company of women but finally falls in love with Popova by going even to the extent of forgetting the debt. (Supports the themes inconsistency and hypocrisy)

*"Only freaks and old women are faithful and constant"*

- ❖ He uses his masculine power to dominate Popova and forces her to pay money back and is going even to stay till money is paid. (supports the theme male chauvinism)

*"I'll stay here until the day after tomorrow. I'll sit here all the time"*

*"Do you think I'm doing this for a joke?"*

- ❖ He had loved several women without sticking to one faithful lover but now falls in love with Popova who at first presents herself as a determined, virtuous and faithful wife and finally engages in kissing with Smirnov breaking all her vows. She even promises herself not to marry anyone but accepts Smirnov's proposal. Mihailovich also had affairs with other women forgetting the wife Popova leaving her alone for weeks. (supports the theme infidelity-unfaithfulness – inconsistency in their behaviour)

*"After his death I found in his desk a whole drawerful of love letters"*

*"I have seen more women than you have seen sparrows"*

*"Luka, tell them in the stables that Toby isn't to have any oats at all."*



08. What is highlighted in the play **Twilight of a Crane** is humanity. Do you agree?  
Support your answer with examples from the drama. (15 Marks)

- Students need to provide evidence for or against the statement.
- Some would argue that is only about humanity, while others would focus on other themes such as; money - greed, 'people's hypocrisy and insincerity, human and natural world, love etc.

The students who support the statement may write;

- ✓ Tsu - Protagonist is not merely a character, but a symbol which symbolizes the absolute goodness of true humanity.
  - ✓ She is also nature that represents humanity which never turns inconsistent (even before the world of human, began.)
  - ✓ Thus, she has no use for worldly things as true humanity never expects or values such materialistic things.
  - ✓ She is capable of giving love and yearns for love.
  - ✓ She is honest and truthful; she speaks truth to Yohyo; she symbolizes trust and honour; generosity and kindness.
  - ✓ Her love towards Yohyo remains the same until the end of the play. Her response to the inconsistency of humans is highlighted.
  - ✓ She is presented as a loving, utterly devoted, pure woman full of integrity and goodness.
  - ✓ She is dignified and principled.
  - ✓ Her selflessness is suggested as she weaves clothes from her live feathers for Yohyo out of her genuine love and she sacrifices for him.
  - ✓ Sodo and Unzu are represented in the play as opposed to humanity. They corrupt Yohyo and he loses his humanity.
  - ✓ Even though she shows her extreme love towards Yohyo, as she does not see the continuing of humanity, she leaves him at the end.
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- Students are expected to provide textual evidence to support the answer.
  - The students who refuse the statement can also be accepted if textual evidence is given and justified.

**PROSE**

9. Discuss how imagination helps Nicholas to face the unfair treatment of his aunt.  
Support your answer with reference to the text. (15 Marks)

- Saki depicts Nicholas as a bright, imaginative, smart boy, who possesses high thinking powers and reason.
- He is oppressed by the unimaginative aunt, but the intelligent and highly imaginative Nicholas resents her authority. E.g. To defy her position of superiority, he puts a frog in his basin of bread-and-milk to prove that her judgment is not always correct.
- When he proves that her judgment is wrong, the aunt punishes him by sending other children to the Jagborough sand. However, Nicholas again challenges her sudden, unimaginative picnic saying that "Bobby won't enjoy himself much, and he won't race much either...his boots are hurting him. They're too tight."
- Thus his imagination allows him to face this unfair treatment of the aunt in a different manner. His imaginative self even dares enough to criticize his aunt not being attentive to children.  
'You often don't listen when we tell you important things.'
- Saki's satire is leveled at the unimaginative aunt who foolishly assumes that Nicholas will slip into the gooseberry garden, so she carefully watches it. Meanwhile clever Nicholas, engages in a long planned action of entering the lumber room and there he shows his imaginative spirit by enjoying all sorts of items that inspire his imagination. For him it is a "storehouse of unimagined treasures" – Actually the Lumber Room symbolizes his imagination.
- Especially the tapestry picture keeps him involved in his imagination and forgets all the unfair treatments of his aunt.
- When the aunt falls into the rain-water tank, Nicholas very imaginatively exercises the power shifted to him. He informs her that he cannot help her since she has forbidden him to enter the garden. Further, he pretends that he does not think she is truly his aunt,  
"Your voice doesn't sound like aunt's...you may be the Evil One tempting me.... Aunt often tells me that the Evil One tempts me and that I always yield. This time I'm not going to yield."
- In the ending at tea while he pretends to be silent his imagination is very active, constructing an end to the story unfolded by the tapestry.



10. Emotions related to love are often misinterpreted. Discuss with reference to **The Nightingale and the Rose.** (15 Marks)

- The story is about different forms of love, especially misinterpretation of love.
- The Nightingale which represents the pure, natural world misinterprets the young students' superficial, infatuation as true love.
- She is innocent, naïve and inexperienced and has no exposure to the corrupted human society, therefore, the young students' behaviour is misunderstood to be that of a true lover's. 'Here indeed is a true lover'
- The young Student's love is selfish and money minded but his tears are misinterpreted by the Nightingale.
- The Young Student misinterprets the love of the Professor's daughter. She has cunning conditional love. She asks for a red rose from the young Student, but he fails to understand the reality.
- The Professor's daughter is also selfish and money minded so that she selects the Chamberlain's nephew over the young Student considering class and wealth.
- The sacrifice of the Nightingale becomes a waste at the end because of this misinterpretation.
- Even the non-human
- Even the non-human characters suggest this feature. – Lizard, Daisy.

11. What does **The Lahore Attack** tell us about how the privileged and the less privileged experienced war and violence? Discuss with reference to the text.

(15 Marks)

- Privileged are suggested by the cricketers and less privileged by the soldier.
- Sangakkara begins his speech by describing the two different lifestyles in the country during war. People like him who live in Colombo are physically detached from war and led a normal life.  
'Children went to school, people went to work, I played my cricket.'
- He then depicts the hardships of the less privileged people who lived in war areas and the soldiers.  
'For them, avoiding bullets, shells, mines and grenades, was imperative for survival.'
- He shows his sympathy for them in the beginning.
- When the team faced the terrorist attack in Lahore only for a few minutes, it grabbed the attention of the whole world. But this attack makes them realize that the life of the less privileged and they developed a new respect and awe for them.
- This is further highlighted in Colombo, when the soldier says he can die but a hero like Sangakkara cannot do so.



12. What does **Wave** teach us about human beings and their reactions in the face of a tragedy? Support with examples from the text. (15 Marks)

- Their vulnerability in the face of nature's force.
- The reactions were two fold – selfless and selfish.
- For most, the only reaction may be running / escape.
- Their fear, tension and bewilderment even make them forget their loved ones because they had to prioritize their roles.  
'I didn't stop to knock on the door of my parents' room, which was next to ours, on the right as we ran out. I didn't shout to warn them.'
- There are positive and negative reactions. E.g. the jeep driver who is kind enough to stop his jeep for an unknown group of people is not ready to wait until the old woman got in.
- It also shows the power of true love even in front of death - Anton jumped out of the jeep to help Beulah.
- Parental love and efforts in saving the lives of their children.
- The narrator's selfishness arose out of her selflessness – her role as a mother.

**Fiction**

( Answer one question only)

13. "Lack of stability in the economic status of a family may change one's normal childhood." Discuss with reference to **Bringing Tony Home**. (15 Marks)

- Moving to different homes.
  - From a large house to a smaller one in Depanama – then to a half house in Egodawatta – then to a more rural house.
  - This happened due to economic instability in the family. It was more traumatic for the child – father changing from the red Jaguar to bicycle, mother's peacock blue wraparound kimono, servants and puppy Tony have now vanished.
- Changing of friends.
  - When they were rich, the narrator associated children of his rich family's friends, but when they moved lower and lower in economic state, he associated friends who belonged to much lower social class. ( Tony also got used to mingle with stray dogs)
- Tony couldn't be kept in their new half-house due to the inconvenience of space. His parents were compelled to release him. - This too happened caused due to the low economic state.
- Narrator was somewhat neglected by his parents. He was sent all alone to Depanama and as a result he fell physically ill.
- Narrator had to part with Tony due to the economic drop in their family. Tony was emotionally very close to the narrator – as a result of this separation, narrator suffered from an emotionally disturbed situation, even when he was learning at school.



14. Despite the differences in their social backgrounds Prince Edward and Tom Canty display strong human qualities. Discuss with reference to **The Prince and the Pauper**.  
(15 Marks)

- Two extreme social backgrounds.
  - Prince Edward belonged to the royal family, richest in the country / heir to the throne.
  - Tom Canty belonged to the poorest of the poor – pauper.
- Qualities of humanity –
  - Empathy, sensitivity, honesty, trustfulness, mercifulness, true friendship etc.

Tom Canty-

- ✓ Grieves for the death punishment of Duke of Norfolk and at the very first chance he releases him from death.
- ✓ Does justice to the victims who were condemned to death on superstition.
- ✓ Makes Humphrey Marlow's position in the palace, permanent.
- ✓ Horrified to hear punishments such as boiling alive to death and takes steps to abolish them.
- ✓ Blames Lady Mary for her 'stony heart'
- ✓ Always speaks the truth.
- ✓ Helps Edward to remember where he kept the Great Seal and thereby helps him to gain his rightful position as the king.
- ✓ Doesn't forget his humble background.

Edward Tudor

- ✓ Gets angry to see a place guard hitting Tom.
- ✓ Gets angry to hear John Canty ill-treating Tom.
- ✓ Treats Tom kindly, speaks to him as a friend, gives him food sends the servants away.
- ✓ He is shocked to see his father's cruel laws in practice – two women burning alive to death – resolve to end these laws.
- ✓ He is sensitive for the fate of yokel the slave.
- ✓ He feels pity for the Christ church boys decides to give them education when he becomes the king.
- ✓ He promised Tom to give more dresses to his sister and
- ✓ He rewards Miles Hendon for his kindness and punishes Hugh Hendon for his wickedness to his brother.
- ✓ He also rewards Tom for being honest helping him to obtain his rightful position.
- ✓ He feels for the poor.
- ✓ Different to his cousin Lady Mary.

15. Evaluate the significance of the character Cousin in *The Vendor of Sweets* for the development of its story (15 Marks)

- As a mediator – between Jagan and Mali.
  - Mali calls him 'uncle'.
  - Tells Jagan that Mali wants to be a writer- he wants to go to America.
  - Encourages him to do so.
- Acts as an informant / communicator.
  - Educate Jagan about Mali's scheme – manufacturing story writing machines.
  - Informs Jagan that Mali is arrested.
- A positive mentor / advisor to Jagan.
  - He corrects Jagan's wrong notion of a 'writer'.
  - Advices Jagan to marry Mali and Grace at the temple.
- A good friend / helper / social worker
  - He is a good listener to Jagan.
    - "You are my savior"
  - Gives opinions where necessary.
  - Keeps his information confidential.
  - He is needed not only by Jagan but by but by everybody in Malgudi because he is ready to help anybody at any time.
- Acts as a supporter of Jagan's business / sampler / taster
  - tastes Jagan's products (sweets) every evening at 4.30 and gives his comments.
  - He updates Jagan with the rates and qualities of ingredients Jagan uses.
- Keeps a sense of balance between two extremes – a moderate personality
  - Eastern & Western / generation conflict.
  - Comforts Jagan and advises him when Mali drops out from school / decides to go to America and comes with an outlandish girl.
- Crisis manager
  - He consults a lawyer to get advices and takes necessary steps with regard to Mali's legal case even before Jagan is aware about the crisis.
  - He receives the keys from Jagan to take the responsibility of running the business when Jagan decides to go the retreat.
- Sometimes seems to take the place of Ambika.
- Cousin helps for the development of the characters, Mali and Jagan.