

2025
SRMUJ
4th Semester Examination
M.A.
English
ENG-405
Partition Studies

Full Marks: 40

Time: 2 Hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

1. Answer any two of the following questions **5×2**

- a) Comment on the symbolic significance of the 'train' in Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*.
- b) Comment on the role of Tha'mma in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*.
- c) Comment on the symbolic act of Lenny breaking the plates in Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-Candy Man*.
- d) What is the significance of the ending of Manto's "Toba Tek Singh"? Comment.

2. Answer any three of the following questions **10×3**

- a) How does Partition literature, through fiction and short stories, reconstruct alternate histories that challenge dominant national narratives? Discuss.
- b) Critically analyze how Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* portrays the complex interplay between communal hatred and human compassion during Partition.
- c) In what ways does *The Shadow Lines* blur the boundaries between personal memory and collective history in the context of Partition? Illustrate your answer with examples from the text.
- d) Briefly discuss how does Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-Candy Man* depict Partition from a child's perspective.
- e) Examine how Manto's short stories reveal the absurdity and tragedy of Partition. Discuss with suitable references from the prescribed texts.