

MA English Language and Literature

(2022 Admission onwards)

Paper XIV: EL541 Kerala Culture and Literature

Model Question Paper

Time: 3 Hours

Marks: 75

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

1. Comment on the use of imagery in the poem “Marital Life”
2. Share the biblical allusion in the poem “Where is John?”
3. How does the story “Yellow is the Colour of Longing” disrupt social constructs of female body?
4. Identify the major conflicts discussed in *Othappu: The Scent of the Other Side*
5. What is the central argument in Rekha Raj’s essay “Rajani’s Suicide”?
6. Note the new sensibility Basheer brought to Malayalam literature.
7. How does the poem transform in “Gandhi and Poetry”?
8. What is the central theme of the story “A Packet of Rice”?

(2x5=10)

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

9. The individual as well as the collective indigenous identity gets asserted through *Kocharethi: The Araya Woman*. Share your response.
10. How does the story “Onion Curry and the table of Nine” capture the subtleties of lived experiences?
11. Attempt a short note on the metaphor of death in Kamala Das’s short stories with special reference to “The Scent of the Bird.”
12. How does the story “The Goddess of Revenge” become a critique of patriarchy within the community?
13. Share the idea of guilt and repentance as exemplified in “Hills, Stars”
14. *The Legends of Khasak* brought a paradigm shift in the sensibility of language use in Malayalam literature. Share your understanding.
15. Najeeb is a Metaphor. How would you respond to this statement?
16. Bring out the satire in the intertextual reference in the poem “Please Come, Oh Flood”

(5x5=25)

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

Group A

17. How does *Keralolpatti* challenge colonial historiography that conceived India as a place with no “consciousness of history or sense of the past”?
18. Attempt an essay on Sree Narayana Guru’s social philosophy that reimagined the history of the land and ushered in Kerala Renaissance.

19. How does Pradeepan Pampirikunnu critique the claims of modernity that often limited itself to socio-cultural hegemonies.

Group B

20. How does the author debate the issue of indigenous land alienation?
21. The literary imaginations of Poykayil Appachan and Sree Narayana Guru were political in its social sensitivity. Elaborate.
22. Sara Joseph's *Othappu: The Scent of the Other Side* explores questions of spirituality, sexuality and individual freedom within a society. Discuss.

(2x15= 30)

IV Answer **anyone** of the following questions in about 150 words.

23. How important is it to understand the different kinds of hegemonies prevalent in a society and how they continuously create marginalities? Share your observations.
24. Present the main ideas in the passage given below and attempt a short analysis of the same. (Provide and extract from Pradeepan Pampirikunnu's essay, "Nationalism, Modernity, Keralanness: A Subaltern Critique")
25. Attempt a critical appreciation of the following lines from the poem, "Kuttippuram Bridge"

"Yet, while standing firm on my feet
on the glory of victory of mankind,
an unknown feeling stream inside;
and haunts my conscience with agony.
On the threshold to the new world
constructed brilliantly, such as this bridge
I stood reminiscing about
the fading picture of my village life.
My bosom friend since childhood
sweet and wealthy damsel, my village;
Maybe she is regressing farther and farther
maybe she is bidding the final farewell."

(1x10 = 10)