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Your Roll No.....

6034

B.A. (Hons.)/III I

ENGLISH—Paper VIII

(Contemporary Literature)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Note :- The maximum marks printed on the question paper are applicable for the candidates registered with the School of Open Learning for the B.A.(Hons.). These marks will, however, be scaled down proportionately in respect of the students of regular colleges, at the time of posting of awards for compilation of result.

Attempt all the *Four* questions. The *first* question has *three* parts and the second *two*, *All the three* parts in the *first* question and the *two* in the *second* are to be answered.

1. (a) *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* provides a snapshot in time of a society that remains captive to its own outmoded customs, beliefs and stories. Discuss.

P.T.O.

Or

In what way can the action of the novel *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* be viewed as a contemporary tragedy ? Which aspects of it interfere with this definition ?

- (b) Gordimer's portrayal of history in *My Son's Story* simultaneously affirms as well as negates the political. Do you agree ? Give a reasoned answer.

Or

Discuss the theme of race and gender in Gordimer's *My Son's Story*.

- (c) Critically analyze the choice of a madman, who following the paradoxical logic of all madmen, throws into disarray the logic of the sane in *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*.

Or

Show how *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* seeks to mobilize popular with against neo-colonialism and neo-capitalism.

2. (a) What, according to Marquez's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, is "the crux of our solitude ?

Or

According to Ngugi, "Language, any language has a dual character : it is both a means of communication and a carrier of culture." Comment with reference to "Decolonizing the Mind". 8

- (b) How do the personal and the political intersect in Neruda's poems ? Illustrate from any *two* of his poems prescribed for you.

Or

Discuss the revolutionary potential of literary texts with reference to either Ngugi or Gordimer. 7

3. (a) Examine the conflict inherent in the act of transition, either within the evolving social roles of the family or the cultural definitions of a society as it is assimilated into the modern world with reference to Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

Or

(b) In retracing the rise and fall of Okonkwo we are made aware of the collective dimension of his tragedy. Discuss with reference to Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. 20

4. (a) Atwood's immersion in the wilderness is a metaphor for her journey through her own subconscious mind. Examine this statement with reference to the poems prescribed in your course.

Or

(b) Walcott has been praised for his moving explorations of racial, cultural and historical consciousness. Comment with reference to the poems prescribed in your course. 20