

Reg. No.

Date:

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27**

**MA ENGLISH - III SEMESTER**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION-DECEMBER–2022**

**ENDE: 9418 - WORLD LITERATURE- III**

**Time: 1 ½ hours Max. Marks: 35**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**1. This paper contains FOUR printed pages**

**2. Do not exceed the suggested word limit**

**Section A**

**Read the following excerpt from “A Small Place” by Jamaica Kincaid (1988) and then read Edward Kamau Braithwaite’s poem “Calypso” given below.**

If you go to Antigua as a tourist, this is what you will see. If you come by aeroplane you will land at the V. C. Bird International Airport. Vere Cornwall (V. C.) Bird is the Prime Minister of Antigua. You may be the sort of tourist who would wonder why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him - why not a school, why not a hospital, why not some great public monument? You are a tourist and you have not yet seen a school in Antigua, you have not yet seen the hospital in Antigua, you have not yet seen a public monument in Antigua. As your plane descends to land, you might say, What a beautiful island Antigua is - more beautiful than any of the other islands you have seen, and they were very beautiful, in their way, but they were much too green, much too lush with vegetation, which indicated to you, the tourist, that they got quite a bit of rainfall, and rain is the very thing that you, just now, do not want, for you are thinking of the hard and cold and dark and long days you spent working in North America (or, worse, Europe), earning some money so that you could stay in this place (Antigua) where the sun always shines and where the climate is deliciously hot and dry for the four to ten days you are going to be staying there; and since you are on your holiday, since you are a tourist, the thought of what it might be like for someone who had to live day in day out in a place that suffers constantly from drought, and so has to watch carefully every drop of fresh water used (while at the same time surrounded by a sea and an ocean - the Caribbean Sea on one side, the Atlantic Ocean on the other), must never cross your mind. You disembark from your plane. You go through customs. Since you are a tourist, a North American or European - to be frank, white and not an Antiguan black returning to Antigua from Europe or North America with cardboard boxes of much needed cheap clothes and food for relatives, you move through customs swiftly, you move through customs with ease. Your bags are not searched. You emerge from customs into the hot, clean air: immediately you feel cleansed, immediately you feel blessed (which is to say special); you feel free.

1

The stone had skidded arc'd and bloomed into islands:

Cuba and San Domingo

Jamaica and Puerto Rico

Grenada Guadeloupe Bonaire

curved stone hissed into reef

wave teeth fanged into clay

white splash flashed into spray

Bathsheba Montego Bay

bloom of the arcing summers...

2

The islands roared into green plantations

ruled by silver sugar cane

sweat and profit

cutlass profit

islands ruled by sugar cane

And of course it was a wonderful time

a profitable hospitable well-worth-you-time

when captains carried receipts for rices

letters spices wigs

opera glasses swaggering asses

debtors vices pigs

O it was a wonderful time

an elegant benevolent redolent time--

and young Mrs. P.'s quick irrelevant crine

at four o'clock in the morning...

3

But what of black Sam

with the big splayed toes

and the shoe black shiny skin?

He carries bucketfulls of water

'cause his Ma's just had another daughter.

And what of John with the European name

who went to school and dreamt of fame

his boss one day called him a fool

and the boss hadn't even been to school...

4

Steel drum steel drum

hit the hot calypso dancing

hot rum hot rum

who goin' stop this bacchanalling?

For we glance the banjoy

dance the limbo

grow our crops by maljo

have loose morals

gather corals

father out neighbour's quarrels

perhaps when they come

with their cameras and straw

hats:  sacred pink tourists from the frozen Nawth

we should get down to those

white beaches

where if we don't wear breeches

it becomes an island dance

Some people doin' well

while others are catchin' hell

o the boss gave our Johnny the sack

though we beg him please

please to take 'im back

so now the boy nigratin' overseas...

**Answer the following questions in about 150 words each. (2x10=20)**

**1.** Jamaica Kincaid's “A Small Place” addresses the question of “secondary colonialism” which occurs when inhabitants of wealthy, highly developed northern or western countries convert poorer, formerly colonial, usually southern and eastern countries into sites or objects of useful pleasure. Tourism is the most obvious example of such colonization. Attempt a critical reading of Braithwaite’s poem as a counter-discourse against secondary colonialism.

2. Comment on the satirical elements in this poem. What does ‘nigrating’ imply?

**Section B**

**Read the following excerpt from “Colonialist Criticism” by Chinua Achebe.**

When my first novel was published in 1958 a very unusual review of it was written by a British woman, Honor Tracy, who is perhaps not so much a critic as a literary journalist. But what she said was so intriguing that I have never forgotten it. If I remember rightly she headlined it Three cheers for mere Anarchy!’ The burden of the review itself was as follows: These bright Negro barristers…who talk so glibly about African culture, how would they like to return to wearing raffia skirts? How would novelist Achebe like to go back to the mindless times of his grandfather instead of holding the modern job he has in broadcasting in Lagos? I should perhaps point out that colonialist criticism is not always as crude as this but the exaggerated grossness of a particular example may sometimes prove useful in studying the anatomy of the species. There are three principal parts here: Africa’s inglorious past (raffia skirts) to which Europe brings the blessing of civilization (Achebe’s modern job in Lagos) and for which Africa returns ingratitude (sceptical novels like *Things Fall Apart*).

**Answer the following question in about 200 words. (1x15=15)**

3. Attempt a critical analysis of the works discussed in the course basing your arguments on the three principal parts that Achebe is pointing out. Discuss black consciousness and ‘ingratitude’ evident in them.