

Questions :

- (i) What efforts did Akaky Akakievich make for his Coat ?
- (ii) What changes did come in his personality for the very thought of getting an Overcoat ?
- (iii) Trace out the central idea of the passage.
- (iv) Change the following into verbs and also use them in meaningful sentences :
- Deprivation and Existence

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B.A. (Hons.) EXAMINATION, 2025

(Sixth Semester)

(Regular & Re-appear)

ENGLISH

Paper XVI

Modern World Literature-II

Time : 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 80

Before answering the question-paper, candidates must ensure that they have been supplied with correct and complete question-paper. No complaint, in this regard will be entertained after the examination.

Note : Attempt all questions.

Section A

1. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow (Attempt any *two* of the following) :

2×5=10

- (a) To tell the truth, it was a little hard for him at first to accustom himself to these deprivations; but he got used to them at length, after a fashion and all went smoothly-he even got used to being hungry in the evening; but he made up for it by treating himself in spirit, bearing ever in mind the thought of his future coat. From that time forth, his existence seemed to become, in some way, fuller,

as if he were married, as if some other man lived in him, as if he were not alone, and some charming friend had consented to go along life's path with him-and the friend was no other than that overcoat, with thick wadding and a strong lining incapable of wearing out. He became more lively and his character even became firmer, like that of a man who has made up his mind and set himself a goal. From his face and gait, doubt and indecision-in short, all hesitating and wavering traits-disappeared of themselves.

(c) For three years Ikemefuna lived in Okonkwo's household and the elders of Umuofia seemed to have forgotten about him. He grew rapidly like a yam tendril in the rainy season, and was full of the sap of life. He had become wholly absorbed into his new family. He was like an elder brother to Nwoye, and from the very first seemed to have kindled a new fire in the younger boy. He made him feel grown-up, and they no longer spent the evenings in his mother's hut

(b) It was not possible to insure the house, the swimming pool, or the car against riot damage. There were riots, but these were outside the city where people of another colour were quartered, these people were not allowed into the suburb except as reliable housemaids and gardeners. So there was nothing to fear, the husband told the wife. Yet she was afraid that someday such people might come up the street and tear off the plaque YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED and open the gates and stream in...Nonsense, my

dear said the husband, there are police and soldiers and tear-gas and guns to keep them away. But to please her—for he loved her very much and buses were being burned, cars stoned, and schoolchildren shot by the police in those quarters out of sight and hearing of the suburb—he had electronically-controlled gates fitted. Anyone who pulled off the sign YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED and tried to open the gates would have to announce his intentions by pressing a button and speaking into a receiver relayed to the house. The little boy was

fascinated by the device and used it as a walkie-talkie in cops-and-robbers play with his small friends.

Questions :

- (i) What was the reason behind the riots in the city ?
- (ii) What sort of fear that the lady feel for her family ?
- (iii) What precautions have been managed against the rioters by the security persons ?
- (iv) Explain - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

- (iv) Is the story '*Once Upon a Time*' a propaganda or a literature ?

Unit III

- (v) How is religion portrayed in this novel ?
Do you think the Christian missionaries had a positive or negative impact on the characters ?
- (vi) What point is the author trying to make about the African identity ? What are the problems does the author outline ? Does he offer solutions ?
- (vii) What happens to the boy at the end of '*Once Upon A Time*' ?

while she cooked, but now sat with Okonkwo in his obi, or watched him as he tapped his palm tree for the evening wine. Nothing pleased Nwoye now more than to be sent for by his mother or another of his father's wives to do one of those difficult and masculine tasks in the home, like splitting wood, or pounding food. On receiving such a message through a younger brother or sister, Nwoye would feign annoyance and grumble aloud about women and their troubles. Okonkwo was inwardly pleased at his son's development, and he knew it

was due to Ikemefuna. He wanted Nwoye to grow into a tough young man capable of ruling his father's household when he was dead and gone to join the ancestors.

Questions :

- (i) What influence did Ikemefuna have on Nwoye ?
- (ii) How did Okonkwo feel about Ikemefuna's influence on Nwoye ?
- (iii) Write a note on the growth of Ikemefuna.
- (iv) Use the following words into sentences of your own :

Annoyance and Masculine.

Section B

2. Attempt any *Five* of the following questions choosing at least *one* from each unit : **5×5=25**

Unit I

- (i) Compare and contrast the characters of Daru and Balducci. Do they have conflicting senses of duty ?
- (ii) What is the overcoat as a symbol meant to convey ?

Unit II

- (iii) In "*The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World*," how does the drowned man transform the people and their village ?

Unit I

3. Camus once said, "The absurd is born of this confrontation between the human need and the unreasonable silence of the world." How does this quote apply to *The Guest* ? Discuss the landscape, the events, and the conversation in the story in the context of Camus' concept of absurdity.

Or

The theme of the story is the message that the author is trying to communicate. As Akakiy's co-workers make fun of him, one of them

suddenly feels great pity for him. Based on this intense reaction, what do you think the theme of the story *The Overcoat* might be ?

Unit II

4. The story "*The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World*," can be read as a transformation myth. How does Esteban change as the story progresses to become larger than life ?

Or

What actions do the husband, wife and their neighbors do again and again because of their fear of outsiders in '*Once Upon a Time*' ?

How does this reveal the story's theme ?

Unit III

5. Describe three values that bind the clan of Umuofia together in *Things Fall Apart*. Identify sources of conflict between the Christians and the clan.

Or

Women suffer great losses in the novel *Things Fall Apart*, but they also, in certain circumstances, hold tremendous power. What role do women play in Okonkwo's life ? Is there any difference between his interaction with specific women and his understanding of women and femininity in general ?

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