

**Department of Linguistics & English  
University of Jaffna**

**Entrance Test in English Literature – Model Paper  
Time: 1 hour**

Answer **Question 1** and *one* other question

1. Write an essay on the role of literature in social change. (25 Marks)
2. Read the following poem and answer the questions below.

**Afro-American Fragment**

So long,  
So far away  
Is Africa.  
Not even memories alive  
Save those that history books create,  
Save those that songs  
Beat back into the blood–  
Beat out of blood with words sad-sung  
In strange un-Negro tongue–  
So long,  
So far away  
Is Africa.

Subdued and time-lost  
Are the drums–and yet  
Through some vast mist of race  
There comes this song  
I do not understand,  
This song of atavistic land,  
Of bitter yearnings lost  
Without a place–  
So long,  
So far away  
Is Africa's  
Dark face.

- a. What is this poem about?
- b. How would you describe the poet's relationship to Africa?
- c. Comment on the significance of "history books" and "un-Negro tongue" to the poet's emotions?
- d. What feelings does the poem create in you?
- e. Identify at least two literary techniques that you observe in this poem **and** specify the line/lines in the poem where they appear.

(25 Marks)

**3. Read the following passage and respond to the questions below.**

Rajan thought for a moment before answering. “If you mean whether I feel Australian, no I don’t,” he said in the same monotone. “I feel at home here. But culturally, I don’t know how to define myself.” He looked at the priest and smiled. “I like Dosai and I drink beer, I speak Tamil and English with an Aussie accent, I like jazz but I also like Indian classical music. What does that make me?” he looked at the priest again. Father Anton shrugged. “What *does* that make you?” he repeated the boy’s question.

“I don’t know,” Rajan said, looking ahead. “I don’t know and I don’t care. I am happy just being who I am.”

- a.** Name all the characters who figure in this extract. How would you describe the situation presented in this extract?
- b.** Describe in your own words what kind of character Rajan is.
- c.** How does Rajan present/describe his identity?
- d.** What is the significance of Dosai, beer, jazz and Indian classical music to the conversation that happens in this extract?
- e.** What does the writer try to tell us through his portrayal of the character of Rajan?

(25 Marks)

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