

(b) Ved Mehta, Vikram Seth and Amitav Ghosh collectively reimagine the travelogue by making it more than just a traveler's account of a visit to a new place and his encounter with the people and culture there. Discuss your responses to any two of the three texts in terms of the extent to which your generic expectations of travel writing were fulfilled and what you enjoyed reading and what you did not. Use textual examples to illustrate your answer.

[This question paper contains 8 printed pages.]

Your Roll No.....

Sr. No. of Question Paper : 4470 J

Unique Paper Code : 2034001206

Name of the Paper : TRAVEL WRITINGS

Name of the Course : COMMON
PROGRAMME : GE

Semester : II / IV / VI

Duration : 3 Hours Maximum Marks : 90

Instructions for Candidates

1. Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.
2. This question paper carries 2 parts. **Both** parts are compulsory.
3. Candidates have to answer **ALL** questions in **Part A** and **ANY THREE** questions in **Part B**.
4. Questions in **Part A** carry 10 marks each and questions in **Part B** carry 20 marks each.

PART A

1. (a) Identify the following excerpt and explain it with reference to the context: "I arrive in New Delhi in the middle of July - sunstroke, heat, flies, and starving millions. I have been away from India for ten years, living in America and England. I spend some weeks getting reacquainted with the country and my family. I visit villages, I call on politicians and religious leaders, I lunch with the Prime Minister, I talk with strangers on the street."

OR

- (b) Analyse the idea of homecoming in Ved Mehta's *Walking the Indian Streets*.

struggles for resistance he encounters, in the two people who lead the movements, Aung San Suu Kyi and Ko Sunny. Use examples from the text to illustrate your answer.

7. (a) Each of the countries the readers visit in the travelogues of the three writers, Mehta, Seth and Ghosh, have been under oppressive and authoritarian rule for decades before they achieve some degree of democratic freedom in which the common citizen can at last exercise relatively greater freedom of speech and action. With reference to one of the texts, discuss how despite the appearance of liberalization, the past continues to impact the socio-cultural and political environment in the present.

OR

it gives him an insider-outsider perspective on all that he encounters on this month-long journey? Discuss, using suitable examples from text to illustrate your answer.

6. (a) Describe the cultural and political significance of the visit of King Sisowath, his entourage and his troupe of a hundred classical dancers to Marseilles from their home country, Cambodia, in May 1906. Give suitable examples from the text to illustrate your answer.

OR

- (b) Amitav Ghosh in his travel essay "At Large in Burma", gives us a portrait of the land and its people, personifying the country's democratic resistance to military rule. Discuss the major

2. (a) Vikram Seth frequently comments on the acts of individual kindness from the local Chinese people he meets on his travels. Discuss a few of these encounters with reference to *From Heaven Lake: Travels through Sinkiang and Tibet*.

OR

- (b) Explain the following with reference to the context:
"Train journeys are the best of all. Chinese rarely get to travel – apart from Sundays workers only get eight days off in the year – and there is usually a sense of euphoria in escaping from one's work unit, if only for a short time."

3. (a) Explain the following excerpt with reference to the context :

"Thiounn Mumm, was, in other words, part mentor, part older brother, part bully and part leader; a figure immediately recognizable to anyone who has ever inhabited the turbulent limbo of the Asian or African student in Europe – that curious circumstance of social dislocation and emotional turmoil that for more than a century now has provided the site for some of the globe's most explosive political encounters."

OR

- (b) Write a short note on General Ne Win's regime that made Burma invisible to the rest of the world for decades.

PART B

4. (a) Examine the portrayal of Indian society in *Walking the Indian Streets*. What insights does Mehta offer into the complexities of Indian life, and how does he engage with local customs and traditions?

OR

- (b) Ved Mehta's expatriate perspectives influence his observations of Indian politics. Discuss with examples from the text.

5. (a) Describe Vikram Seth's journey by road, from Liuyuan to Lhasa, with special reference to his travel companions, the places he travels through and some of the most memorable highlights of this trip. Use examples from the text to illustrate your answer.

OR

- (b) How does Vikram Seth negotiate his foreign, *Waibin* status and identity while traveling through China? How does this foreignness become both a boon and a bane, and what are the ways in which