SECTION A: DRAMA (50)

Answer one of the following questions.

QUESTION 1: Macbeth by William Shakespeare

EITHER

a) Read the extract below and answer the questions that follow, taking care to write in complete and coherent sentences and to quote extensively from the passage.

Lady Macbeth
Nought's had, all's spent,
Where our desire is got without content;
'Tis safer to be that which we destroy,
Than by destruction dwell in doubtful joy.

Enter Macbeth
How now, my lord, why do you keep alone,
Of sorriest fancies your companions making,
Using those thoughts which should have died
With them they think on? Things without remedy
Should be without regard — what’s done is done.

Macbeth
We have scorched the snake, not killed it:
She’ll close, and be herself, whilst our poor malice
Remains in danger of her former tooth.
But let the frame of things disjoint —
Both the worlds suffer —
Ere we will eat our meal in fear, and sleep
In the afflication of these terrible dreams
That shake us nightly. — Better be with the dead,
Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,
Than on the torture of the mind to lie
In restless ecstasy.
Duncan is in his grave:
After life’s fitful fever, he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst; nor steel nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further. (3.2.4 – 26)

a) Contextualise Lady Macbeth’s comments, discuss her frame of mind, and assess her relationship with Macbeth at this point. (10)
b) What is Macbeth planning to do at this stage? What is his state of mind? Analyse his response to the situation in which they now find themselves. (10)
c) Discuss five ironic elements found in the passage. (10)
d) Analyse five images/symbols found in the extract and discuss their contribution to our understanding of the concerns voiced by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. (10)
e) Discuss the significance of this scene to our understanding of the play as a whole. (10)

OR

b) In the opening scene of Macbeth the three witches chant “Fair is foul and foul is fair” (1.1.12).

Write an essay in which you discuss the significance of the natural order of the universe in the play. Your essay should focus on how, and by whom, this balance is initially maintained and then, subsequently, disrupted and should include references to Duncan, Banquo, Macbeth, Lady Macbeth and the ‘weird sisters’ or witches.
SECTION B: POETRY AND THE NOVEL

Answer either a poetry question or a question on Maru

QUESTION 2: POETRY

EITHER

a) “The Broken String” by Xaa-ttin

people were those
who broke the string for me
and so
the place became like this to me
as a result
because the string was broken for me
and so
the place does not feel to me
as the place used to feel to me
as a result
for
the place feels as if it stood open before me
because the string was broken for me
and so
the place does not feel pleasant to me
as a result

Question:

Write an essay in which you critically discuss the distinguishing characteristics of a Circular Narrative which the poet uses in this poem.
In your answer pay attention to the various ways in which a Circular Narrative is distinct from a Linear Narrative. Also, discuss what you feel the symbolism of the string refers to. Quote directly from the poem to substantiate your argument.
b) “Come and be My Baby” by Maya Angelou

The highway is full of big cars
going nowhere fast
And folks is smoking anything that'll burn
Some people wrap their lives around a cocktail glass
And you sit wondering
where you're going to turn.
I got it.
Come. And be my baby.

Some prophets say the world is gonna end tomorrow
But others say we've got a week or two
The paper is full of every kind of blooming horror
And you sit wondering
what you're gonna do.
I got it.
Come. And be my baby.

Questions:

i) Explain what you think Angelou means by ‘going nowhere fast’.

ii) Name two things in the poem that people use to distract themselves.

iii) Explain what you think the poet is saying about the significance of human relationships in life. Quote directly from the poem to support your argument.

iv) Critically discuss the elements of Angelou’s unique lyric voice in this poem. Why does she use this type of voice here? Again, support your argument by quoting from the poem.

v) Discuss Angelou’s use of tone in the poem. How would you describe the tone in the poem? How does the tone complement the unique voice that the poet uses in the poem? You must support your argument by quoting from the poem.
QUESTION 3: Maru by Bessie Head (50)

EITHER

a) Read the extract below and answer questions that follow.

Extract

That evening, he [Maru] was happy. He thought about the yellow daisies. He walked through the door and said, softly: "My sweetheart."

They were the most precious words, if you only knew the horrors of what can pour out of the human heart; a horror that seemed most demented because the main perpetrators of it were children and you were a child yourself. Children learn it from their parents. Their parents spat on the ground as a member of a filthy, low nation passed by. Children went a little further. They pinched you. They dance a wild jiggle, with tin cans rattling: "Bushman! Low Breed! Bastard!"

Before the white man became universally disliked for his mental outlook, it was there. The white man found only too many people who looked different. That was all that outraged the receivers of his discrimination, that he applied the technique of jiggling dance and the rattling tin cans to anyone who was not a white man. And if a white man thought that Asians were a low, filthy nation, Asians could still smile with relief—at least they were not Africans. And if the white man thought the Africans were a low, filthy nation, Africans in Southern Africa could still smile—at least they were not Bushmen. They all have their monsters. You just have to look different from them, the way the facial features of a Sudra or Tamil do not resemble the facial features of a high caste Hindu, then seemingly anything can be said and done to you as your outer appearance reduces you to the status of a non-human being (pp. 10-11, AWS).
Questions

1. What contrasts are drawn between Maru’s utterance and the subsequent narration of race and ethnic taxonomies presented in the above extract? Discuss, citing specific words or phrases from the extract. (10)

2. To what extent would you agree that one is not born “with the horror of what could pour out of the human heart”, but is learnt vicariously? Discuss, giving examples from the extract as well as the text as whole. (10)

3. To what extent would you agree with the view that the author appears to downplay or even exculpate the “white man’s” discrimination by highlighting the ‘alternative’ view that inter-ethnic discrimination and prejudice predate the arrival of the “white man” in many a non-Western country? If so, why do you think she felt the need to foreground these inter-ethnic discriminations and internal stratifications? Discuss, using the evidence from the text as well as the text as a whole to vouch for your ideas. (15)

4. Write THREE paragraphs in which you discuss the theme that is highlighted in the above extract. (15)

OR

b) “Margaret Cadmore Senior educates Margaret Cadmore Jr, thereby uprooting the young Margaret from her culture and people, only to abandon her when she returns to England.”

In an essay of not more than THREE pages, critically evaluate the above statement and discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the views expressed in this statement. Your response should refer to key events in the novella to substantiate your views.