

**Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya**  
**Department of English**  
**BA Part III**  
**Question Bank**

**Paper II: Prose and Fiction**

Short Answer Questions:

1. Comment on the relationship between Ghisu and Madhav.
2. How does laziness become a trope in The Shroud?
3. What is the attitude of villagers towards Ghisu and his son?
4. What does the shroud symbolise in the story?
5. Does death become a calamity or a tragedy in the story The Shroud?
6. Ghisu comes off as an evil man in the story The Shroud. Comment.
7. What kind of pleasure do Ghisu and Madhav derive out of Budhiya's death?
8. Why doesn't Budhiya get a shroud?
9. How do Ghisu and Madhav justify their actions at the end of the story?
10. Though not alive, Budhiya plays a major role in the story. How?
11. What is the main theme of A Chronicle of Peacocks?
12. What is the vision that the narrator has in the story A Chronicle of Peacocks?
13. What do the peacocks and ducks symbolise?
14. What are the various qualities of the peacocks which make the narrator so fond of them?
15. What is the underlying message in the story A Chronicle of Peacocks?
16. What is the biblical story which the writer refers to in A Chronicle of Peacocks?

17. What are the mythological characters from Mahabharata which are referred to in the story?
18. How does the writer draw parallels between the great war of Mahabharata and Partition, 1947?
19. What are the various places in which the story A Chronicle of Peacocks is set?
20. What is the event which gives the impetus to the story A Chronicle of Peacocks?
21. Which two communities does Ismat Chughtai choose for basing her story The Roots?
22. What does the title The Roots signify?
23. What kind of relationship do the two families share?
24. Give a brief character sketch of Amma.
25. Why is Amma's family in such a rush to leave?
26. What are the horrors that Amma imagines her family in?
27. Who comes as a savior for Amma eventually and why?
28. How does Chughtai show that the external environment has a deep effect on human relationships?
29. Describe the trope of friendship as shown in Ismat Chughtai's The Roots.
30. How does Chughtai keep a balanced view in the story The Roots and not become biased?
31. V.M. Basheer's Birthday has semi autobiographical elements. Comment.
32. What is the greatest dilemma the narrator faces in Basheer's Birthday?
33. Is the narrator's birthday a happy day in the story? Why or why not?
34. How does the narrator celebrate his birthday in the story Birthday?
35. What are the daily difficulties that Basheer describes in the story Birthday?
36. How is the importance of a simple meal highlighted in the story Birthday?

37. What are the various ways the narrator uses to find a meal for himself?
38. What is the anger that the narrator has towards the country?
39. What becomes the reason for the narrator not being able to get a meal on his birthday?
40. Who turns out to be the most charitable characters in the story Birthday?
41. Who is the charioteer in Shashi Deshpande's My Beloved Charioteer?
42. Which mythological character does the word 'charioteer' refer to and why?
43. Describe the relationship shared between Ajji and Arti.
44. How is Arti's relationship with Madhav different from that of her parents?
45. What is the main dilemma faced by Ajji?
46. Does Preeti have an important role to play in the story My Beloved Charioteer?
47. Why is the charioteer beloved in this particular story?
48. Why is Arti so angry with her mother?
49. Describe the relationship between Arti and Preeti.
50. What is the underlying message of the story My Beloved Charioteer?
51. Give a short introduction of the writer Ambai.
52. What is the main premise of the story A Kitchen in the Corner of House?
53. Why does the writer set the story in a kitchen?
54. What is the significance of the kitchen in Ambai's story?
55. What is being challenged through the story A Kitchen in the Corner of House?
56. How does the story depict the relationship between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law in Indian society?
57. Does food take a significant space in the story?
58. What role do men have to play in the story A Kitchen in the Corner of House?

59. What views does Jiji express regarding the role women have to play in a house?
60. Give a brief sketch of Minakshi as shown in Ambai's story.
61. Who is the eponymous guide in R.K. Narayan's The Guide?
62. What is the issue of Rosie?
63. Why does Rosie leave her husband?
64. How does Rosie achieve autonomy in her life?
65. How is Raju an instrument for Rosie to achieve independence in life?
66. What are the factors which transform Raju?
67. Why do the villagers consider Raju a godman?
68. How does the novel depict the making of a 'saint'?
69. Why does Mrs. Reed dislike Jane?
70. What is the question Jane asks Rochester right after he proposes to her and why?
71. Who is the woman in the attic?
72. What is the reason for Jane to leave her job at Lowood?
73. Describe the relationship Jane shares with St. John Rivers.
74. What is one of the most evident themes of Jane Eyre?
75. Is Jane Eyre a romantic novel? Why or why not?

Long answer questions:

1. How does Premchand depict the relationship between poverty and tragedy through the story The Shroud?
2. Describe death as a motif in the story The Shroud.
3. What is the significance of the title The Shroud. Discuss in detail.

4. How does Partition become a major theme in the story A Chronicle of Peacocks?
5. Discuss the comparison of nature and man as done by Intizar Husain in his story.
6. How does Husain draw parallels between ancient religion and modern politics in the story A Chronicle of Peacocks.
7. Chughtai uses various narrative techniques to bring out the horrors of partition in the story The Roots. Discuss.
8. Bonds of friendship sometimes run deeper than blood. Do you agree? Validate your argument on the basis of your reading of The Roots.
9. Justify the title 'The Roots'.
10. How does Basheer subvert the idea of a birthday in his story? Elucidate.
11. Poverty is the most evident theme of V.M. Basheer's Birthday. Comment.
12. How does Basheer comment upon the degraded state of patriots in the country through the story Birthday? Elucidate.
13. Shashi Deshpande discusses feminism in Indian society through the story My Beloved Charioteer. Discuss.
14. How does Deshpande bring out the complexity of the mother-daughter relationship through her story? Discuss in detail.
15. How do the two daughters become charioteers for their respective mothers? Elucidate.
16. Feminism is a camouflaged theme in the story A Kitchen in The Corner of House. Comment.
17. Who are the various women in Ambai's story? Trace their relationships and their respective roles in the story.
18. How does the setting of a story affect the plot? Discuss on the basis of your reading of the story A Kitchen in The Corner of House.

19. Discuss the character of Rosie in detail as depicted in *The Guide*.
20. What roles do 'dharma' and 'karma' play in the novel *The Guide*. Discuss in detail.
21. In what ways can *Jane Eyre* be considered a feminist novel?
22. Considering his treatment of Bertha Mason, would you consider Mr. Rochester a sympathetic or unsympathetic character? Validate your argument using examples from the text.
23. Attempt a translation of the following paragraph:

- वे चार लड़कियाँ हैं और तुम केवल दो लड़के हो। उनके पास दिमाग है और तुम्हारे पास काम है। तुम अगर मिल कर काम करो तो सब ठीक हो सकता है। इस दुनिया में सब कुछ सम्भव है। तुमने कभी उनसे बात की इस बारे में? मैं तो कभी नहीं कर पाया। अगली बार जब तुम वहाँ जाओ तो उनसे ज़रूर मिलना। वे बहुत अच्छे इन्सान हैं। सभी लड़कियाँ अपना काम समय पर करती हैं। तुम भी करते हो पर कमी रह जाती है। क्या तुम मेरे बारे में जानते हो? मुझे ऐसा नहीं लगता। मुझे वो घड़ी मिली पर मैंने वापिस कर दी। क्या मैंने अच्छा नहीं किया? तुमने हमेशा मुझे गलत समझा पर मैंने तुम्हें दोस्त समझा। आज वक्त आ चुका है कि हम एक दूसरे को समझें। देखते हैं तुम कब समझोगे। लेकिन मुझसे दूर मत जाना। मैं वादा करता हूँ कि मैं भी नहीं जाऊँगा।

24. You are a reporter with a local daily. As a reporter, you were invited for the opening of a luxury car showroom. Prepare a report of the same for publishing it the next day.

25. Attempt a critical analysis of the following passage:

- **FROM JAMES MCBRIDE'S *THE COLOR OF WATER***

An important difference between James and his mother is their method of dealing with the pain they experience. While James turns inward, his mother Ruth turns outward, starting a new relationship, moving to a different place, keeping herself busy. Ruth herself describes that, even as a young girl, she had an urge to run, to feel the freedom and the movement of her legs pumping as fast as they can (42). As an adult, Ruth still feels the urge to run. Following her second husband's death, James points out that, "while she weebled and wobbled and leaned, she did not fall. She responded with speed and motion. She would not

stop moving” (163). As she biked, walked, rode the bus all over the city, “she kept moving as if her life depended on it, which in some ways it did. She ran, as she had done most of her life, but this time she was running for her own sanity” (164). Ruth’s motion is a pattern of responding to the tragedy in her life. As a girl, she did not sit and think about her abusive father and her trapped life in the Suffolk store. Instead she just left home, moved on, tried something different. She did not analyze the connections between pain and understanding, between action and response, even though she seems to understand them. As an adult, she continues this pattern, although her running is modified by her responsibilities to her children and home.

The image of running that McBride uses here and elsewhere supports his understanding of his mother as someone who does not stop and consider what is happening in her life yet is able to move ahead. Movement provides the solution, although a temporary one, and preserves her sanity. Discrete moments of action preserve her sense of her own strength and offer her new alternatives for the future. Even McBride’s sentence structure in the paragraph about his mother’s running supports the effectiveness of her spurts of action without reflection. Although varying in length, each of the last seven sentences of the paragraph begins with the subject “She” and an active verb such as “rode,” “walked,” “took,” “grasp” and “ran.” The section is choppy, repetitive and yet clear, as if to reinforce Ruth’s unconscious insistence on movement as a means of coping with the difficulties of her life.