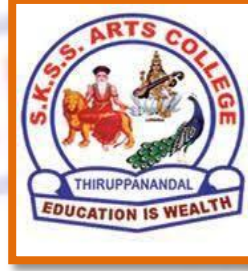




ஸ்ரீ-ல-ஸ்ரீ காசிவாசி சுவாமிநாத சுவாமிகள் கலைக் கல்லூரி  
தருப்பனந்தாள் - 612504

**S.K.S.S ARTS COLLEGE, THIRUPPANANDAL - 612504**



## QUESTION BANK

*Title of the Paper*

## COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE

16ACCEN14

Course: III B.A (ENG)

**Prepared by**

**Mrs. J.VIJAYA. M.A., B.Ed.,  
Assistant Professor**

Department of English

**CORE COURSE XIV**  
**COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE**

**Objectives :**

To introduce learners to the literatures of a few commonwealth countries To enable learners to understand and appreciate various cultures, traditions and mores

**Unit – I :**

Poetry Sir Charles G.D Roberts : “The Solitary Woodsman”

Razia Khan : “My Daughter’s Boyfriend”

**Unit – II :**

Poetry Allen Curnow : “House and Land”

E.J Pratt : “The Dying Eagle”

**Unit – III :**

Prose Margaret Atwood : “Nature as a Monster” from Chapter 2 of Survival:

A Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature

**Unit – IV :**

Drama Wole Soyinka : The Road

**Unit – V :**

Fiction Chinua Achebe : Things Fall Apart

**Book for Reference :**

Narasimhaiah, C. D. An Anthology of Commonwealth Poetry. India: Macmillan, 1990.

## Unit - I

### CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

- 1) The poem, the solitary woodsman is written by whom?
  - a. Margaret Atwood
  - b. sir Charles G.D. Roberts
  - c. E.J Pratt
  - d. Allen Curnow
- 2) What is the season described in the poem?
  - a. spring
  - b. summer
  - c. Autumn
  - d. winter
- 3) Where is the moose?
  - a. thicket
  - b. Among the trees
  - c. In the camp
  - d. In the house
- 4) What does the loon do?
  - a. shouts
  - b. laughs
  - c. mourns
  - d. sleeps
- 5) The solitary woodsman is a \_\_\_\_\_ poem
  - a. love
  - b. Nature
  - c. war
  - d. sad
- 6) The poetess Razia khan belongs to which country?
  - a. India
  - b. Bangladesh
  - c. Pakistan
  - d. Newzealand
- 7) What does the poem 'my daughter's boy friend' express?
  - a. a mother's feelings
  - b. a daughter's love
  - c. the boy friend's love
  - d. a father's feelings
- 8) Who spend sleepless nights when the child was sick?
  - a. The father
  - b. the mother
  - c. the lovers
  - d. the sister

- 9) Who is fragile flower referred to in the poem?
- the rose
  - The mother.
  - the daughter
  - the father
- 10) What types of the mother does the poem present?
- Arrogant
  - Proud.
  - self sacrificing
  - selfish

**Answers : ( 1b, 2c, 3d, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7a, 8b, 9c, 10c)**

### **SHORT QUESTIONS**

- 11) What does the owl do?  
12) Where is the shy bear?  
13) What is the squirrel doing?  
14) What does the woodman do in the forest?  
15) Who calls at the man's door?  
16) What is the theme of the poem 'my daughter's boy friend'?  
17) What does the speaker here?  
18) How did the poetess feel when the child was in her womb?  
19) Why did the poetess spend sleepless nights?  
20) What happens to the poetess when she hears knocks on the door?

### **PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**

- 21) How does the poet describe the trees and bushes in the forest  
22) Write a short note on the cornel tree  
23) Comment on the role of nature in the poem 'the solitary woodsman'.  
24) How does Roberts describe the house of the woods man?  
25) Write a critical note on Robert's the solitary woods man.  
26) Describe the emotions of the mother in " my daughter's boy friend."  
27) Explain mother pain in the poem my daughter's boy friend.  
28) Bring out the central idea of the poem my daughter's boyfriend.  
29) How does the daughter's boy friend behave?  
30) What is the theme of the poem Razia khan's my daughter's boy friend.

### **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

- 31) How does the poet describe the Flora and Fauna in the poem 'the solitary woods man'?  
32) Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem "the solitary woodsman".  
33) Give a brief summary of Roberts the solitary woodsman.



- 34) Write a detailed account on Roberts's description of the forest and the solitary woods man in this poem solitary woodsman.
- 35) Bring out the significance of the title, " the solitary woodsman"
- 36) How does the poem 'my daughter's boy friend' talk about the transfer of a child's affection from parent to lover?
- 37) A critical appreciation of the poem "my daughter's boy friend.
- 38) How does the mother feel when her daughter is on the point of eloping with her lover?
- 39) Write an essay on my daughter boyfriend's by Razia khan.
- 40) Bring out the feelings of the mother expressed in the poem my daughter's boy friend.

## UNIT II

### CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER:

- The settlers in Newzealand had come from which country?
  - Australia
  - America
  - England
  - Newzealand
- How many generations have the settlers spend in newzealand?
  - Two
  - Five
  - three
  - Seven
- How old is miss. Wilson?
  - 40 years
  - 80 years
  - 15 years
  - 50 years
- Miss Wilson is proud of what?
  - Rich legacy
  - Beauty
  - Poor
  - Intelligence
- In the cowman has decided to leave miss. Wilson when?
  - In the summer
  - Next Winter
  - Two years later
  - One years later
- Who was the undisputed king of that place?
  - A heron
  - An old eagle
  - A partridge
  - New eagle

7. How many off spring did the eagle have?
  - a. ten
  - b. two
  - c. five
  - d. Countless
8. What was the eagle throne?
  - a. The rock
  - b. The peak
  - c. The crag
  - d. The mountain
9. How did the intruder look like?
  - a. Falcon
  - b. A heron
  - c. A flying dragon
  - d. A partridge
10. What happen to the eagle?
  - a. Humiliated
  - b. Proud
  - c. Sad
  - d. happy

**ANSWER (1c, 2a, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7d, 8c, 9c, 10a)**

#### **SHORT QUESTIONS**

11. Why does the historian visit Newzealand?
12. What is the problem of the settlers?
13. What does the poem "house and land" investigate?
14. What does the rain symbolize?
15. The historian has planned to meet whom? What is his purpose?
16. What did his off springs do?
17. What did the eagle see on that day?
18. How did the intruder look like?
19. What was the eagle doing at the end of the day?
20. What was the eagle's throne?

#### **PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS:**

21. Why does miss Wilson sense of feeling of estrangements?
22. Explain the reference to the picture on the wall.
23. Write a short note on the symbols used by the poet to express the theme of displacement.
24. What does the tied dog symbolize?
25. Write a critical note on Allen Curnow's house and land.
26. How does Pratt describe the appearance of the eagle at dusk?

27. Describe the new bird and its flight.
28. Write a brief notes on the manoeuvres of the eagle.
29. Bring out the central idea of the poem 'the dying eagle'
30. Explain the message of Pratt's the dying eagle.

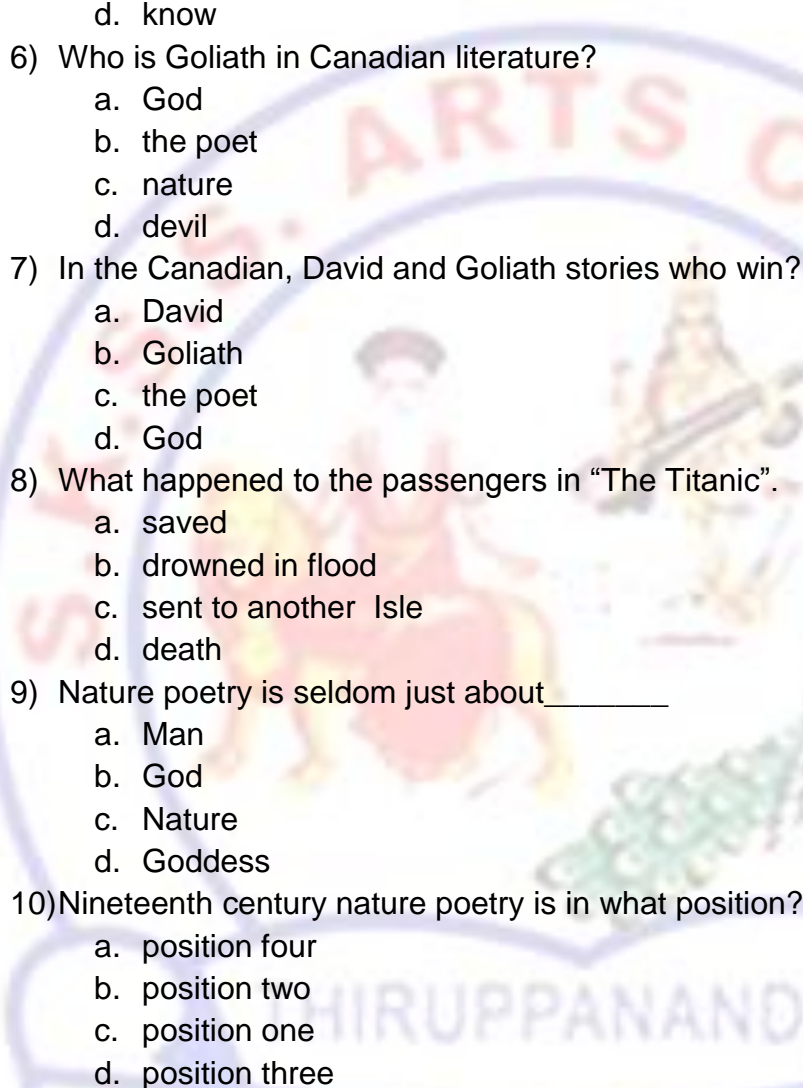
### **ESSAY QUESTIONS:**

31. Bring out the message conveyed by Allen Curnow in this poem 'House and land'
32. Discuss the quintessence of void in House and land"
33. Write an essay on House and land by Allen Curnow.
34. Describe the poem house and land by Allen Curnow.
35. Write an essay on Allen Curnow's portrayal of the relationship between the coloniser and the colonised in the poem "House and land".
36. Give a critical analysis of the poem, the dying eagle by Pratt.
37. A critical appreciation of the poem the dying eagle.
38. Write a detailed summary of Pratt's " the dying eagle.
39. How was the eagle before and after the arrival of an 'intruder'? describe
40. Discuss the theme of the poem 'the dying eagle' by Pratt.

### **UNIT – III**

#### **CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER**

- 1) What is nature poetry about?
  - a. Description of nature
  - b. poet's attitude to nature
  - c. power of nature
  - d. elements of nature
- 2) What is the only season in Canadian literature ?
  - a. Autumn
  - b. spring
  - c. winter
  - d. summer
- 3) In the late eighteenth century, the Canadian poets followed the mode of whom?
  - a. Edmund burke
  - b. keats
  - c. T.S.Eliot
  - d. sir Charles
- 4) 'Roughing it in the Bush' is written by whom?
  - a. susanna moodie

- 
- b. wordsworth
  - c. walt Whitman
  - d. emerson
- 5) Are there venomous reptiles or vermin in Canada?
- a. yes
  - b. no
  - c. not know
  - d. know
- 6) Who is Goliath in Canadian literature?
- a. God
  - b. the poet
  - c. nature
  - d. devil
- 7) In the Canadian, David and Goliath stories who win?
- a. David
  - b. Goliath
  - c. the poet
  - d. God
- 8) What happened to the passengers in "The Titanic".
- a. saved
  - b. drowned in flood
  - c. sent to another Isle
  - d. death
- 9) Nature poetry is seldom just about\_\_\_\_\_
- a. Man
  - b. God
  - c. Nature
  - d. Goddess
- 10) Nineteenth century nature poetry is in what position?
- a. position four
  - b. position two
  - c. position one
  - d. position three

**ANSWER: ( 1-b 2-c 3-a 4-a 5-b 6-c 7-b 8-b 9-c 10-c)**

## **II SHORT QUESTIONS**

11. What is nature poetry?
12. Why is the ship 'The Titanic' compared to Noah's Ark by Atwood?
13. What does Atwood mean by death by nature?
14. According to Atwood what are the two emotions depicted by the Canadian poets about nature?
15. In the first half of the nineteenth century how did the poets look at nature?
16. What are the two emotions expressed in roughing it in the Bush"?



17. What is the attitude of Canadian poets towards nature referred to by Atwood?
18. What is position three in judging nature poem?
19. How do the Canadian poets depict nature?
20. What are the two murder weapons in Canada?

### III PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

21. Write an account on Atwood's views on Canadian literature.
22. What does Earl Birney say in this poem "Transcontinental".
23. Describe the "First position" Atwood mentions in judging nature poems.
24. What is the change noticed by Atwood with regard to the obstacles that the potential survivors have to overcome.
25. According to Atwood why the Canadian literary landscape is still largely unexplored.
26. How does Atwood conclude her article "Nature the monster".
27. Give a short description of the origin of Canadian poetry told by Atwood.
28. Distinguish between death by nature and natural deaths.
29. Write a brief note on the Canadian nature poetry.
30. How does Susanna Moodie describe the surpassing grandeur?

### III ESSAY QUESTIONS

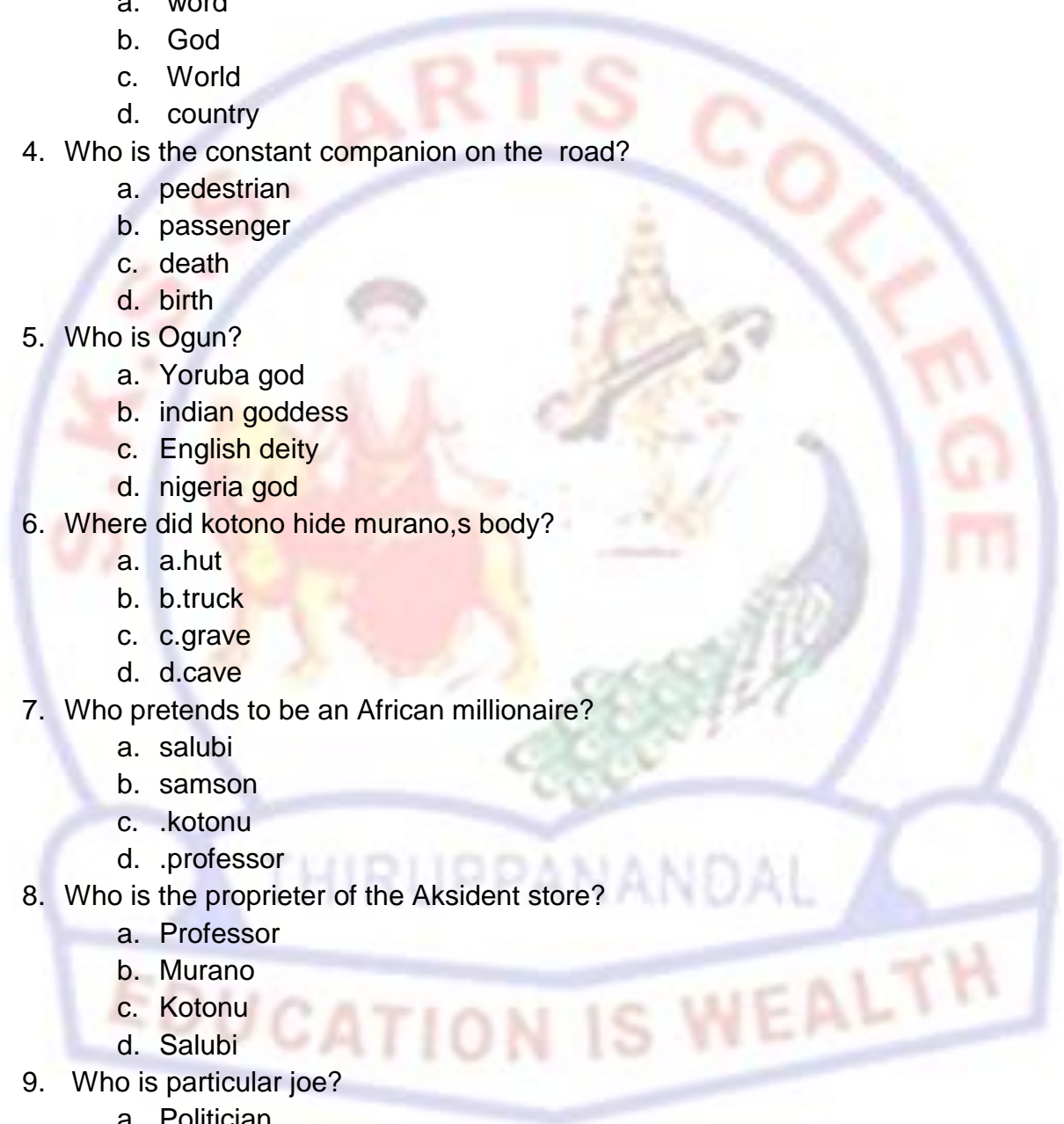
31. How does Margaret Atwood define the environmental interpretations of Canadian literature in chapter-II of her work survival?
32. Describe the four victim position stated by Margaret Atwood in 'Nature the monster'.
33. Write a detailed summary of Margaret Atwood's 'Nature the monster'.
34. Give a critical analysis of the poem 'The Titanic' by E.J. Pratt's.
35. How does Douglas Le Pan's poem "A country without a mythology" show the split attitude.
36. Consider nature as a monster.
37. Bring out the theme of nature the monster by Margaret Atwood.
38. Write a note on the literary mode in nature poetry in Canada at the end of eighteenth century and in the beginning of the nineteenth century.
39. What does Atwood say in position three in the judgment of nature poems.
40. Give a brief summary of Atwood's 'nature the monster'.

### UNIT – IV

#### CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. The play, The Road is written by whom?
  - a. Chinua Achebe
  - b. Wole Soyinka
  - c. Girish Karnad

- d. E.J.Pratt
2. Who is the protagonist of the play 'the Road'?
- a. professor
  - b. kotonu
  - c. murano
  - d. samson
3. What does the protagonist in the play searches?
- a. word
  - b. God
  - c. World
  - d. country
4. Who is the constant companion on the road?
- a. pedestrian
  - b. passenger
  - c. death
  - d. birth
5. Who is Ogun?
- a. Yoruba god
  - b. indian goddess
  - c. English deity
  - d. nigeria god
6. Where did kotono hide murano,s body?
- a. a.hut
  - b. b.truck
  - c. c.grave
  - d. d.cave
7. Who pretends to be an African millionaire?
- a. salubi
  - b. samson
  - c. .kotonu
  - d. .professor
8. Who is the proprieter of the Aksident store?
- a. Professor
  - b. Murano
  - c. Kotonu
  - d. Salubi
9. Who is particular joe?
- a. Politician
  - b. Peon
  - c. Police man
  - d. Say Tokyo kid
10. Where does the professor search for the word?
- a. Thewall
  - b. Bits of news paper



- c. c.Glass pieces
- d. the bible

**Answers: ( 1-b, 2-a, 3-a, 4-c, 5-a, 6-b, 7-b, 8-a, 9-c, 10-c)**

### **SHORT QUESTIONS**

11. What is the conversation between Samson and Salubi in the beginning of the play 'the Road'?
12. Who is professor?
13. To what does the playwright use the chorus?
14. Where does professor search for the 'word'?
15. Why does professor lose his position in the church?
16. According to professor, why did God paint rainbow?
17. What are the transitional devices used in the play?
18. How is the death of Murano, described by Soyinka?
19. What is Ogun?
20. What happens to professor towards the end of the play?

### **Paragraph questions**

21. Describe the fourth space portrayed by Soyinka.
22. Explore the theme of corruption in Wole Soyinka's "the Road."
23. Write a brief note on the play the Road.
24. Sketch the character of professor.
25. What is suggested in the play 'the road' about the disposition of the protagonist professor?
26. Examine the existential crisis in Wole Soyinka's the road
27. Describe the scene in which Samson imitates professor.
28. Write a short account of the unscrupulous character's in the play.
29. Where does professor try to seek the meaning for 'the word'? What explanation does he give for it?
30. Narrate the death of professor in the play, the Road.

### **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

31. 'The play "The Road is more thoroughly grounded on Yoruba background"- justify.
32. Write an account of professor as portrayed in the opening scene of the play the road.
33. Attempt a critical appreciation of the play, the Road by Wole Soyinka.
34. Describe the Aksident store all parts available and the people involved in it.
35. How does Wole Soyinka introduce the "Abiku and Ogun" concept in the play "the Road"?
36. Explore the theme of corruption in Wole Soyinka's the Road.

37. Bring out the Soyinka's views on transcendence..
38. Give a critical analysis of the play: "The Road" by Wole Soyinka.
39. Write a detailed summary of Wole Soyinka's "The Road".
40. How does the professor embrace death in the play "The Road"?

## UNIT- V

### CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWERS

1. Who is the protagonist of the novel "Things Fall Apart"?
  - a. Unoka
  - b. Nwoye
  - c. Okonkwo
  - d. Obierika
2. Umuofia consists of how many villages?
  - a. nine
  - b. two
  - c. five
  - d. eight
3. Okonkwo becomes the guardian of whom?
  - a. Obierika
  - b. Ikemefuna
  - c. Maduka
  - d. Unoka
4. Why did Okonkwo's father fail in life?
  - a. Laziness
  - b. Pride
  - c. Over-confidence
  - d. Courage
5. Whose daughter is Ezinma?
  - a. Obiageli
  - b. Ojiugo
  - c. Ekwefi
  - d. Maduka
6. The villagers are interested in collecting and cooking what?
  - a. Flies
  - b. Locusts
  - c. Wasps
  - d. Bird
7. Who kills Ikemefuna?
  - a. Ezeudu
  - b. Obierika
  - c. Okonkwo
  - d. Unoka



8. The novel, 'Things fall Apart' consists of how many parts?
- five
  - two
  - three
  - seven
9. How does Okonkwo meet his end?
- murdered
  - hang himself
  - dies naturally
  - accident
10. The clan's ancestral spirits are known as what?
- egwugwu
  - chi
  - chukwu
  - Ani

**ANSWER ;(1-C 2-a 3-b 4-a 5-c 6-b 7-b 8-c 9-b 10-a)**

### **SHORT QUESTIONS**

- Who is the author of 'Things Fall Apart'?
- Why was Okonkwo ashamed of his father?
- Where did the missionaries build their church?
- How does Nwoye know that Ikemefuna is dead?
- What do the Igbo people do to the twins?
- What is the name of the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary who comes to Umuofia?
- Who is Agbala?
- Why does Okonkwo hang himself?
- Where does Okonkwo spend his 7 years of exile?
- Why did Okonkwo kill Ikemefuna?

### **PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS**

- Write a note on the significance of the Oracle of Hills and Caves.
- Write a short note on the symbols used in the novel 'Things Fall Apart'.
- Discuss the language as a sign of cultural deference in the novel 'Things Fall Apart'.
- Sketch the character of Okonkwo.
- Why is the novel, 'Things Fall Apart' considered to be a seminal African novel in English?
- Describe briefly the pathetic story of Ikemefuna.
- What does 'chi' refer to in the novel 'Things Fall Apart'?
- How does the Commissioner appreciate Okonkwo?
- Bring out the relationship between Ekwefi and Ezinma.

30. How do the whitemen build a church and establish a government in Mbaino?

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

31. Bring out the significance of the title "Things Fall Apart"

32. Attempt a critical assessment of Achebe's art of plot construction in "Things Fall Apart"

33. Make an analysis of the conflicts in Things Fall Apart

34. Comment on the animal imagery found in the novel, "Things Fall Apart".

35. Bring out the themes in the novel, Things Fall Apart.

36. Describe briefly Okonkwo's relationship with Ikemefuna.

37. Write about the various food items that are prepared for the feast of New Yam.

38. Consider Achebe's Things Fall Apart as an epic.

39. Write an essay on the part played by Okonkwo.

40. Narrate the details which made the District Commissioner take the upper hand.

