

(b) "O. Henry, with grim and ironic humour, underscored the effect of coincidence on human character." Examine *The Last Leaf* in the light of this observation.

2. Answer any *one* of the following :

(a) Give your opinion on whether Nambi was a talented storyteller or whether he was divinely inspired. Why did he fail to tell a story towards the end? 6+4=10

(b) "I have a most wonderful tale to tell tonight." What was the 'wonderful' tale told by Nambi? Narrate the incident that led to this 'tale'. How did the people receive this story? 3+4+3=10

3. Answer any *one* of the following :

(a) Explain how the speaker in *An Indian in China* could build friendly relationship in the seemingly hostile environment in China, thereby making his own job easier.

(b) How do the Chinese view foreign friends? How did they treat Vikram Seth? 5+5=10

Answer any *three* of the following : 2×3=6

(a) What 'unseen stranger' does the author talk about? How does he 'smite' his victims?

(b) Why did Behrman smell of juniper berries?

(c) How old was Nambi? How did he indicate his age?

(d) What did Nambi tell the people when he was not in a mood to tell stories?

(e) How did the Chinese refer to Raj Kapoor and Nargis? Why did they do so?

(f) When and why, according to the author, was Beethoven banned in China?

Give very short answers to any *four* of the following : 1×4=4

(a) How is the disease pneumonia presented in the story, *The Last Leaf*?