

- (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*?