ASSIGNMENT 2026-27
(Based on Blocks 1-8)

Course Code: MEGOL-07
Max. Marks: 100

Attempt any five (5) questions. All questions carry equal marks.

5 x 20 = 100

1. Write short notes on: 4 x 5 = 20
    a. Autobiographical elements in Kamala Das' "My Grandmother's House"
    b. Character of Tara in *Clear Light of Day*
    c. R. K. Narayan's prose style
    d. Salman Rushdie as a diasporic writer
2. Discuss the portrayal of women characters in Raja Rao's *Kanthapura*. 20
3. Do you think Mahesh Dattani's play *Tara* is ultimately about Tara's tragedy or Chandan's journey of atonement? Critically examine. 20
4. Shashi Deshpande's stories move beyond conventional feminism to foreground a range of issues. Do you agree? Illustrate with examples. 20
5. Discuss the use of magical realism in *Midnight's Children*. How does it contribute to the novel's political and historical critique? 20
6. How does Sri Aurobindo respond to Western critiques of Indian Civilisation in *Is India Civilised*? Elaborate. 20
7. How does Mulk Raj Anand's narrative technique contribute to the impact of his novel *Untouchable*? Illustrate. 20
8. Critically discuss the central issues in the poetry of Sarojini Naidu. 20

1. Write short notes on: 4 x 5 = 20

a. Autobiographical elements in Kamala Das' "My Grandmother's House"

b. Character of Tara in Clear Light of Day

c. R. K. Narayan's prose style

d. Salman Rushdie as a diasporic writer

Answer

(a) Autobiographical elements in Kamala Das' "My Grandmother's House"

Kamala Das' "My Grandmother's House" is strongly autobiographical because it grows out of the poet's remembered childhood and her emotional attachment to the ancestral house associated with her grandmother. The poem is not a literal record of events; it transforms personal memory into a larger meditation on love, loss and loneliness. The first-person voice makes the experience intimate. The speaker remembers a time when she "received love" in the grandmother's house, and the memory becomes especially painful because that secure affection is absent from her adult life.

The house stands for much more than a physical building. It represents childhood, protection and unconditional love. After the grandmother's death, the house becomes silent and dark. Images of coldness, still air, darkness and abandonment convey the emotional emptiness that follows the loss. The speaker's desire to return, look through the windows or bring back even a little of the darkness suggests how deeply the place has entered her inner life. Memory is therefore both comforting and painful: it preserves a lost source of love but also reminds her that it cannot be recovered.

The autobiographical quality is also connected with Kamala Das' confessional mode. She often writes openly about private emotions, emotional hunger, marriage and the need for affection. In this poem, the contrast between the loved child of the past and the emotionally deprived adult of the present gives the poem its intensity. The speaker is willing to seek even a small measure of love because the complete, unquestioning love associated with the grandmother has disappeared.

Thus, the personal details of the ancestral home and grandmother provide the poem's emotional foundation, but the poem moves beyond private memory. The lost house becomes a symbol of every remembered place where a person once felt