

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025

3rd Year, 2nd Semester

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Subject Code : CBCS/CL/UG/DSE/6.4B

CROSS-CULTURAL LITERARY STUDIES

Time : Two Hours

Full Marks : 30

Answer all questions *either* in English *or* in Bengali but all *three* in the same language.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. (a) How do cultural and historical contexts shape Rama's identity – as divine, royal, or flawed – and how do these portrayals alter the gender dynamics in various Ramakatha retellings? Elucidate with reference to all three Ramayana retellings included in your syllabus.

Or

- (b) Do you think the localization of the Ramakatha narrative in *The Ramakien* modifies the religiosity of the traditional discourse? Discuss with suitable references to unique developments in term of the characters and the narrative progression in the said text.

2. (a) Canada as a nation has been relentlessly negotiating with a perpetual identity crisis. With reference to Beatrice Mosionier's *In Search of April Raintree*, critically analyse the challenges faced by the Mé'tis people and how different state apparatus have traditionally ignited the problem.

Or

- (b) What prompted T.S.Eliot to turn to the orient, and specifically to Indic philosophy when he was writing *The Waste Land* and *The Four Quartets*? Answer with reference to the two clusters mentioned.

3. (a) *A Passage to India* carefully blurs the notion of truth and reality, with both content and narrative tools from the novel. Comment with examples if this conscious political choice is made by Forster to show the two sides of a colonised nation.

Or

- (b) Discuss how the cyclic nature of gendered violence and the socio-cultural reaction to the same have been dealt with in the novel *Season of Migration to the North*.

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