

Ex/Eng/PG/2.2/2025

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2025
First Year Second Semester
ENGLISH
Authors and Readers

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Examine the ways in which Charlotte Smith uses the voices of Petrarch and Werther to construct her own poetic persona in the *Elegiac Sonnets*.
2. Critically examine how Emily Dickinson's unique use of syntax, capitalization, and punctuation contributes to multi-layered interpretations of her poetry. Provide specific examples from **at least** two poems to substantiate your answer.
3. Would you agree that *The Life of Charlotte Bronte* is as much about Elizabeth Gaskell as it is about Charlotte Bronte? Justify your answer.
4. With reference to Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, write short notes on **both** the following topics: (i) reading the novel as both like and unlike Charles Perrault's "Cinderella" and (ii) reading the characters of the novel as readers.
5. In what ways did the expansion of the literary marketplace reshape Victorian authorship into a profession increasingly defined by commercial pressures and responsiveness to reader expectations? Discuss.
6. How did factors such as gender, class, and prevailing social norms either restrict or empower Victorian authors in asserting their authorial voice and contributing to the cultural and political conversations of their time? Discuss.
7. Analyze the role of childhood and memory in *The Mill on the Floss*. How does George Eliot use retrospection to construct the reader's relationship with Maggie and Tom's early experiences, and what implications does this have for the narrative's moral perspective?
8. How does Charles Dickens employ the serialized format and explicit didacticism in *Hard Times* to influence and engage with the dominant public discourses of his time?
