

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025
Second Year, Second Semester
Department of English
Literature and Marginality

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer **any three** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Please read the instructions carefully:

Attempt Part A (Literature and Disability) and Part B (Literature and Caste) in two separate booklets. On the top sheet of each answer booklet, clearly write "Part A (Literature and Disability)" or "Part B (Literature and Caste)" as applicable, in capital letters.

Part A (Literature and Disability)

(Answer part A in a separate booklet)

Answer **any one** of the following: (10)

1. Examine the use of the imagery of sight in *Oedipus at Colonus*.
2. Analyse Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay's treatment of blindness in *Rajani*.
3. What are the semantic functions of Richard's "monstrous" body in Shakespeare's *Richard III*?
4. Comment on Tagore's treatment of "voicelessness" in *any two* of his short stories that you have studied.

5. Write a short critical note on **any one** of the following: (5)

- i. Blindness as metaphor
- ii. Religious model of disability
- iii. Reasonable accommodation

Part B (Literature and Caste)

(Answer part B in a separate booklet)

Answer **any one** of the following: (10)

6. Critically examine Baby Kamble's *The Prisons we Broke* as an example of how "Dalit women write differently."
7. Examine the use of conversion as a tool of resistance to the "backward pull of brahmanism" by Babasaheb Ambedkar and Kancha Ilaiah.
8. Examine the problematic of mediation and institutional apathy in the dissemination of Dalit writing from your reading of *Touchable Tales*.

9. Attempt a critical essay on the “alternative aesthetics” of Dalit literature proposed by S.K.Limbale.
10. Would you agree with Omprakash Valmiki’s comment about Dalit literature being the “literature of life and literature of the desire to live”? Justify your answer with reference to the stories you have read in your course.
11. Would you agree that “The Tree of Violence” is a nihilistic fable about a failed nation? Justify your answer with close reference to the text.

12. Write a short critical note on **any one** of the following: (5)
 - i. Tarabai Shinde
 - ii. The mother-son relationship in “Under Dadar Bridge”
 - iii. The critique of brahminism in Meena Kandasamy’s poems
 - iv. Mahatma Phule’s definition of Dalit identity
 - v. Pandita Ramabai
