

Jadavpur University  
Bachelor of Arts in English  
First Year Second Semester Examinations, 2025  
IDC: Literature and Censorship

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Attempt *any three* questions taking one from each CO.

CO1: The students will be acquainted with a broad history of literary censorship  
(1X10)

1. In what ways did censorship in ancient Rome anticipate some of the modern-day mechanisms of censorship?
2. What was the attitude of the Stationer's Company attitude towards censorship?
3. Discuss, with examples, the mechanisms and fallouts of stage censorship in Elizabethan England.

CO2: The students will be acquainted with some of the key legislations regarding censorship in Britain and India. (1X10)

4. What legislations were used by the British to curtail freedom of the press in India, and with what degree of success?
5. How did the extant legislation on libel affect the case of the *Indigo-Planting Mirror*?

CO3: The students will look at some of the landmark cases and episodes concerning censorship. (1X10)

6. To what extent can *Areopagitica* be called a polemic on 'freedom of speech'?
7. How subtle and forceful can political censorship be? Explain with examples from Bengal and your introduction to A. Shivanandan's, *When Memory Dies*.
8. How do the discourses of law, nationalism, and gender shape the idea of 'obscenity' in early 20<sup>th</sup> century India? Discuss with reference to the *Lihaf* trial.

\*\*\*\*\*