

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2025
First Year Second Semester
ENGLISH
Indian Writing in English

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. Write an essay on the characteristics of early nineteenth-century prose writings by Indians in English.
2. Comment on some of the characteristics of folktales with reference to the stories in Lal Behari De's *Folk Tales of Bengal* that you have read in your course.
3. Critically comment on the ways and purposes to which religion and politics are interwoven in *Kanthapura*.
4. "On every Eid day my father went directly from the mosque to Bichu Phupi's house with his sons to hear her curse and swear." Critically comment on why "the father" would go to hear "her curse and swear"? What does the end of the story tell about Bichu Phupi?
5. "Time and again, Hyder observed that she had a strong sense of history and that she used it as a base for her fiction." Discuss with reference to the stories by Qurratulain Hyder that you have read.
6. How does the narrative structure in *Clear Light of Day* help to emphasise the focus on the four siblings and their lives, rather than on society?
7. "Kamala Das is one of the first Indian English poets who dared to speak of female desires and female subjectivity in a candid manner." Do you agree? Give reasons to justify your answer from the poems you have read in the course.
8. "Yes, I have a lot to say. ... For so many years, I haven't said a word. ... But each time I shut my lips tight. I thought, no one will understand." Who is the speaker? Comment critically on this speech and its relevance in Vijay Tendulkar's play *Silence! The Court is in Session*.
