

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
Second Year, Second Semester Examinations, 2025
Major: Literature and Disability

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any four questions taking one from each CO.

(Attempting more than one question from the same text is not permitted)

CO1: Critically engage with the politics of "representing" disability in literary and cultural texts. (1 x 7.5=7.5)

1. To what extent does Chaucer depict Januarie's blindness in "The Merchant's Tale" as an instance of poetic justice? Discuss with reference to the medical and religious ideas about blindness prevalent in medieval England.
2. Considering the narrative focus on newly blind individuals, what perspectives or experiences might be absent in Saramago's portrayal of blindness in his novel that you have studied?

CO2: Understand the evolution of perspectives about disabilities (as reflected in literature) since the Classical Age. (1 x 7.5=7.5)

3. Critically comment on the 'sight-insight' binary as deployed by Sophocles in *Oedipus at Colonus*.
4. Examine the theatrical potential of the 'onstage representation' of blindness, with special reference to any one play that you have studied.

CO3: Critique the constructs of normalcy and respect the idea of "difference."

(1 x 7.5=7.5)

5. "Deformed persons are commonly even with nature, for as nature hath done ill by them, so do they by nature." Critically comment on this statement of Bacon with reference to your understanding of Shakespeare's depiction of Richard in his play *Richard III*.
6. Do the characters Bhikhu and Panchi of Manik Bandyopadhyay's short story 'Prehistoric' use their disabilities to conform to or to subvert the ableist expectations of society? Justify your answer.

CO4: Appreciate the voices of persons with disabilities who engage politically with the literary space that has hitherto remained dominated by ableism.

(1 x 7.5=7.5)

7. Discuss the significance of social and political models of disability with reference to the text *One Little Finger*, reflecting on Malini Chib's varied experiences of disability in Indian and western society.
8. Analyse Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay's treatment of the genre of 'Autobiography' in his *How Can I Talk If My Lips Don't Move?*.
