

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2025
Second Year, Second Semester
Department of English
Narratives of Nation Formation and Rupture

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

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

- 1) Would you agree that a 'national' identity is inherently precarious? Answer critically with reference to texts you have read.
- 2) Why does Tagore write "the Nation is the greatest evil for the Nation"? Explain with close reference to Tagore's *Nationalism*.
- 3) "Indian nationalism is not exclusive, nor aggressive, nor destructive. It is health giving, religious and therefore humanitarian." Examine Gandhi's views on Indian nationalism as expressed in his various writings.
- 4) Critically examine how Jinnah and Nehru address both the Indian people and the international audience in their speeches that were delivered after the announcement of the partition plan and on the eve of independence.
- 5) What does Ambedkar exhort the trade unions to do in his speech of 17 September 1943 and why?
- 6) How does Urvashi Butalia complicate the issue of violence against women that was perpetrated during the Indian Partition? Answer with close reference to *The Other Side of Silence*.
- 7) Do you think Sabitri Roy's *Paka Dhaner Gaan* ("Harvest Song") succeeds in weaving together nationalist discourses with that of class struggle? Justify your answer.
- 8) What is the significance of Ghufra Manzil in Qurratulain Hyder's *My Temples, too*?
- 9) Would you agree that Sadat Hasan Manto's partition stories juxtapose the absurd and the devastatingly tragic? Answer with reference to the stories you have read.
- 10) How does Ritwik Ghatak use the story of Shakuntala to narrate partition in *Komol Gandhar*?
