

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

Third Year Sixth Semester

ENGLISH (HONOURS)

History, Literature and Criticism

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. All questions carry the same marks.

1. In what way does the *Theogony* manifest the Greek concern with *origins*? Discuss.
2. Critically assess the treatment of the Persephone myth in the "Hymn to Demeter".
3. "It is the Greeks who give us the discipline of history, but its two great pioneers Herodotus and Thucydides give us sharply differing ideas of what the discipline is about". Do you agree? Discuss with suitable references to the sections of the texts that you have studied.
4. Comment on Polybius's discussion of the "cycle of polities" in the 6th book of his *Histories*.
5. Comment on Tacitus's presentation of the "origins and customs" of the Germans in the sections of the *Germania* that you have studied. How far does it support the distinction between civilization and barbarism?
6. Discuss Augustine's critique of classical historiography in Book XII of the *City of God*.
7. "The denizens of *Inferno* are beyond redemption: *Paradiso* is far above us. It is in *Purgatorio* that we encounter the imperfect but redeemable human subject." Do you agree? Discuss.
8. "If in More's account of Hunne's death faith precedes fact, in the coroner's report the body, the tragic product and witness of a secret event, must be its own text: inscribed with the signs of its own causes, it must be made to speak for itself." Discuss.
9. How does Ginzburg problematize the relation of distance and compassion?
10. How does Amin present the way in which the image of the Mahatma is accommodated within existing patterns of peasant beliefs?
11. Write an essay on any one:
 - a. Myth and history in ancient Greece
 - b. Rome as "the eternal city"
 - c. New Historicism