

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

First Year Second Semester

ENGLISH

Postmodern Fictions

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. "Doctorow's *Ragtime* is 'novelized history' because in the novel fiction becomes 'speculative history'." Comment.

OR

Would you regard Doctorow's *Ragtime* as "cinematic"? Give reasons for your answer.

2. In *Neuromancer* Gibson dissolves many modernist boundaries. Write an essay on *either* the body or the mind as sites of fusion.

OR

Write an essay on the connections between 'real' space and 'cyberspace' in *Neuromancer*:

3. In what ways does Jean Rhys write back to Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* in *Wide Sargasso Sea*? Substantiate your answer with suitable textual illustrations.
4. Would you agree that there is "invariably a contrived incompleteness" in Fowles's short stories? Refer to the stories to justify your answer.

OR

Discuss some of the postmodern techniques that Fowles uses in his short stories.

5. What typical strategies characterize postmodern performance? Illustrate your response with examples.
6. Analyse the political stance of M.I.A. (Mathangi Arulpragasam) from a postmodern point of view, supporting your answer with evidence from at least two song lyrics by her.