

**MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019**

**First Year Second Semester**

**ENGLISH**

**Authors and Readers**

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. (a) Charlotte Smith's poems 'transmit a number of ventriloquized voices.' Discuss with textual evidence.  
OR  
(b) Do the poems of Emily Dickinson contradict her image as a recluse?  
OR  
(c) What do you think is the central problem of *Modern Love*? Justify your answer.
2. Which social institutions are critiqued in *The Pickwick Papers* and how?
3. Critically comment on the politics of anonymity in connection with novel writing in the 18th century. Answer with special reference to Burney's *Evelina*.
4. Had Branwell written *Wuthering Heights*, would our perception of the Heathcliff-Catherine relationship in the text change in any way? Justify your answer.
5. Would you agree that Elizabeth Gaskell's "defense" of Charlotte Bronte's life predominantly contributed to the creation of a "myth of martyred feminine creativity"? Justify your answer through a close reading of the text.
6. (a) Explain the difference between a "scriptor" and an "author" in Barthes' "The Death of the Author".  
OR  
(b) Write an essay on the rise of multiple and distinct readerships of fiction in the second half of nineteenth century England.
7. "In *Middlemarch*, George Eliot seems to engage in a process of soul-searching, an attempt to define and redefine herself, and to signal to others the changing nature of her understanding of her identity and place in the world." Discuss.