

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
ENGLISH
FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER
GENERIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. “The *Odyssey* is a poem about story-tellers and story-telling”. Do you agree? What forms of story-telling do you find in the Books that you have studied?
2. Aeschylus is said to have called his plays “dry scraps from the great banquets of Homer”. In what sense is the *Agamemnon* a “Homeric” tragedy?
3. Would you agree with the view that the *Cyclops* is a play about cultural difference? Give reasons.
4. Discuss the importance of mock-epic in Greek antiquity with reference to either *The Battle of the Frogs and the Mice* or *A True Story*.
5. “It is in Aeneas that we witness the birth of the moral hero of the epic”. Is this view borne out by the sections of the poem that you have read?”
6. How do the formal characteristics of the chivalric romance inflect the Renaissance epic?
7. Critically comment on the figure of the female knight as depicted by Ariosto and Spenser.
8. a) Consider the view that *Paradise Lost* is best described as a *summational* epic.
or
b) Would you term Satan a hero or anti-hero? Defend your choice.
9. “*The Slaying of Meghnad (Meghnad-Badh Kabya)* is the great problematization of the Western epic genre in colonial poetics”. Do you agree? Discuss.
10. Bakhtin writes of the epic hero “...he is a fully finished and completed being. This has been accomplished on a lofty heroic level, but from beginning to end he coincides with himself, he is absolutely equal to himself. He is, furthermore, completely externalized.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer with reference to any two of the epics that you have studied.