

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

Second Year Fourth Semester

ENGLISH

Literature and Marginality

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30.

Answer questions one and eight (5 marks each), as well as one other question from each section, (10 marks each) making a total of four questions.

Group A

1. Attempt *any one*.
 - a) Comment on the imagery of the tree in Namdeo Dhasal's "The Tree of Violence"
 - b) Explicate the politics of "Advaita the Ultimate Question" by Meena Kandasamy
 - c) "Those who grow up in darkness look better with the ornaments of darkness." Comment.
 - d) Comment on the significance of the ending of "Footprint of an Elephant"
 - e) Interrogate the 'Dalitness' of Dalit literature.
2. Why, according to Ambedkar, should the caste system be annihilated and not reformed? What strategies does he develop to this end?
3. *The Prisons We Broke* reveals the ways in which Dalit women negotiate poverty and domestic violence. Discuss.
4. "The women of *Sangati* wield language as a powerful weapon against patriarchy." Comment.
5. Would you consider Baburao Bagul's "Mother" as a text which contributes to the discourse of Dalit feminism? Give reasons for your answer.
6. "The central concern of Dalit literature is how best to represent the 'authentic experience' of Dalits." Comment with reference to the stories you have read.
7. Would you describe Dalit writing as Protest Literature or the Literature of Resistance? Answer with reference to the texts you have read.

Group B

8. Write a short note on *any one* of the following:
 - (a) The Ugly Laws
 - (b) Evil Crip
 - (c) Feeble-mindedness
 - (d) New Eugenics
9. Comment on the significance of sight in *Oedipus at Colonus*.
10. Discuss the historical and political significance of Richard's monstrosity in *Richard III*.
11. How do the physically disabled characters portrayed by Flannery O'Connor negotiate with the ableist narrative of victimhood? Answer with reference to the stories you have studied.
12. "Blindness is not the *subject* as much as the *condition* of Milton's poetry. Critical approaches need to be adjusted to accommodate this fact." Discuss with reference to the poems you have studied.