

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2018
ENGLISH
First Year Second Semester
Mystery and Detection in the Victorian Novel

Full marks – 30

Time – 2 Hours

Answer **three** questions in all, choosing at least **ONE** from each Group. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A
(Victorian Texts)

1. What 'conventions' of the Newgate novel does *Paul Clifford* establish? Answer with close reference to the text.
2. What is your view of the place of the supernatural in a narrative of mystery and detection? Substantiate your answer with reference to *The Turn of the Screw*.
3. Compare and contrast Inspector L- of 'The Secret Cell' with the detectives created by Poe and Baroness Orczy as solvers of crime. Which type appeals to you more, and why?
4. Attempt an analysis of the features of the 'sensation novel' with reference to *The Woman in White* and *The Trail of the Serpent*. How many of these features do you find in *Desperate Remedies*?
5. The Victorian novels of mystery and detection give credence to certain devices which would not receive any legal recognition today as sources of crime. Discuss with reference to 'The Ghost of Fountain Lane' and *The Notting Hill Mystery*.
6. Using material from what Dickens has left in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, construct your own solution to the 'mystery'.
7. Do you find the two short stories of Sherlock Holmes you have studied in the course more compact and satisfying as narratives of mystery and detection than the novel *A Study in Scarlet*? Give reasons for your answer.

Group B
(Later Texts)

8. 'Both the comic suggestion that Holmes is Moriarty, and the narratives that show the queer orientation of the Great Detective are firmly rooted in evidence from the Holmes Canon.' Examine the validity of this comment with close reference to the prescribed texts.
9. What evidence do you find in the text of *A Taste for Honey* that qualifies it as a later Holmes narrative?
10. How successfully does Kieran Shields relate the Salem Witch Trials to his mystery set in the late nineteenth century in *The Truth of All Things*? Answer with illustrative references to the novel.
11. How effective as a plot-device is Anna Lee Huber's use of the ingenious motif of the detective-as-suspect in *The Anatomist's Wife*? Analyse by going through the narrative in detail.