

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2018  
First Year, First Semester  
ENGLISH  
Narratives of Nation Formation and Rupture

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer three questions selecting at least one from each group. All questions are of equal value.

**Group A**

- 1) Critically examine the validity of the 'nation' as a sign. How has the nation been read in the literature that examines the formation of the Indian and Pakistani nations?
- 2) The politics of identity inherent in the Indian partition destabilises the fixity of other forms of identification. Do you agree? Give reasons.
- 3) Examine critically how the concept of education as articulated by Tagore and Gandhi manifests the divergent ideological positions of the two men with regard to the Non Cooperation movement.
- 4) How do Jinnah and Nehru conceive of the nation and history in their two speeches delivered on the eve of the Independence and Partition of India?
- 5) How does Butalia's gendered reading of Partition in *The Other Side of Silence* influence our reading of Gandhi's assertions regarding Indian nationalism? Does the representation of nation in Butalia's narrative synchronise with the nation articulated by Nehru?

**Group B**

- 6) Analyse how Manto and QurratulainHyder variously deploy the condition of insanity to critique the two nation theory and the cartographic and social partition of India.
- 7) How do the concerns of class and gender inflect the discourse of political independence in Sabitri Roy's *PakaDhanerGaan*?
- 8) RitwikGhatak's *KomolGandhar* and QurratulainHyder's *My Temples, too* represent surrogate families, suggesting newer modes of belonging in the new nation. Compare and analyse the two families and their different trajectories.
- 9) BapsiSidwa's depiction of violence and conflict through the lens of a child narrator makes it imperative to develop an alternative paradigm of violence in the context of Partition. Comment on the above statement.