

Master of Arts Examination 2018  
First Year Second Semester  
ENGLISH (HONOURS)  
The Historical Novel

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

- 1) Victor Hugo's *Notre-Dame de Paris* and Andrew Miller's *Pure* engage with the ideas of defacement and destruction of architecture and the restoration and preservation of history. Comment.
- 2) Claude Frollo and Cardinal Wolsey are both men of the Church who wield considerable power. How do their lives reflect on the contemporary society and the institutions they served?
- 3) Examine Anne Boleyn and the Little Saint as women who were more than consorts to powerful men. Why do you think both history and literature have repeatedly revisited the lives of these two women?
- 4) What does Sophie signify to Hardenburg? How have Fitzgerald and Miller explored the idea of love in *The Blue Flower* and *Pure*?
- 5) History has received Thomas Cromwell and Maharaj Kumar quite differently. Do you think their characters as represented in *Wolf Hall* and *Cuckold* respectively make them similar as contemporaries?
- 6) How do real and symbolic violence become pervasive in the daily instances of ordinary lives in Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and Zusak's *The Book Thief*?
- 7) Shukov takes recourse to work and Max to words while incarcerated. What significance do work and words assume in the lives of these two men?
- 8) Why do you think so many historical novels resort to locating ordinary people in history at moments that History has not kept an account of? Elucidate your answer with reference to some of the texts you have read in your course.