

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2022

(2nd Year, 1st Semester)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Course: CBCS/CL/CORE/UG/3.2

(European Literatures: Renaissance & Neoclassicism)

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *three* questions either in *English* or in *Bangla*,
but all three in the same language.
All questions carry equal marks.

1a. Discuss Machiavelli's *Il Principe* as a seminal treatise on political deception which subsequently gave birth to the notion of Renaissance humanism which ushered in a completely new wave of thought and belief in Europe and inspired many plays like Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Illustrate your discussion with relevant references to the two texts.

Or

1b. Rabelais and Montaigne strive to champion the cause of Renaissance Humanism in contemporary France, from within two distinctly different modes of literary expression. Discuss with close reference to the texts.

2a. Lazarillo's constant display of wit, his frequent moral-philosophic asides and his ability to laugh at his own misfortunes, all contribute to the establishment of an atmosphere of increasing trust and sympathy on the reader's part. How has this facilitated the reader in tracing the making of a Renaissance man within this picaresque? Answer with relevant textual references.

Or

2b. Would you agree with the view that a departure from the medieval traditions of ecclesiastical domination and a newly acquired faith in human capabilities has shaped Renaissance literature for what it is? Substantiate with relevant textual references.

3a. What differences do you find in the idea of tragedy as practised in the Renaissance and the Neoclassical age? Answer with reference to one tragedy from each age.

Or

3b. Would you consider *The Misanthrope* by Moliere and *Candide* by Voltaire as texts where doubt plays a major role? Answer with close reference to the two texts examining if the ideology in these texts goes against the defence of status quo, which is taken as a defining element of Neoclassical thought.