

Master of Arts Examination, 2022  
First Year Second Semester  
Department of English  
**Authors and Readers**

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

Answer *any three* questions. All questions carry equal marks

1. How do Charlotte Smith's class and gender inflect her self-construction as a poet in the public sphere?
2. '*The Pickwick Papers* is randomly episodic and has no coherent plot.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Critically comment on the politics of anonymity in connection with novel writing in the 18th century. Answer with special reference to Burney's *Evelina*.
4. Would you agree that Elizabeth Gaskell's 'defense' of Charlotte Bronte's life predominantly contributed to the creation of a "myth of martyred feminine creativity"? Justify your answer through a close reading of the text.
5. 'Barthes moves from the death of the author and the birth of the writer in the first part of the essay to the death of the writer and the birth of the reader in the last part of the essay.' Elucidate with reference to "The Death of the Author."
6. Was the three-volume novel more congenial to women writers? Discuss with suitable examples.
7. 'Jane Austen deploys all-too-familiar Gothic tropes in *Northanger Abbey* only to ridicule them'. Discuss.
8. In *Middlemarch*, George Eliot seems to engage in a process of soul-searching, an attempt to define and redefine herself, and to signal to others the changing nature of her understanding of her identity and place in the world. Discuss.
9. In *The Return of the Native*, Clym Yeobright's life has been determined by two events directed by the heath; his commitment to Eustacia at the midpoint of the novel ominously under a lunar eclipse and the death of his broken-hearted, estranged mother from an adder bite. Comment.