

Master of Arts Examination, 2022  
First Year Second Semester  
Department of English  
**Modern European Fiction**

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

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

1. In Hasek's novel, is Svejek representative of a general Czech incomprehension and apathy about the war, or does he act alone? Give reasons for your answer.
2. In *The Periodic Table*, Primo Levi wrote: 'Chemistry led to the heart of the Matter, and Matter was our ally precisely because the Spirit, dear to Fascism, was our enemy.' How do you think Levi's training as a chemist enabled him to confront and bear witness to the realities of Fascism and Nazism?
3. How does St-Exupéry reconcile the conflicting pulls of freedom and duty in *Night Flight*? Discuss.
4. 'Precisely because Solaris cannot be assimilated into human history (because it does not signify any new path of historical development), it represents a void into which all human hypotheses fall. Its discovery is a pure negative apocalypse.' Comment.
5. In an interview, Elfriede Jelinek referred to the women who carry on 'their backs' 'the high culture Austria so idolizes. ... A woman who cannot partake in life or in desire. Even the right to watch is a masculine right, the woman is always the one who is watched, never the one who watches'. Examine the sexual choices made by Erika Kohut in *The Piano Player* in the light of this statement.