

Master of Arts Examination, 2022
Second Year Fourth Semester
Department of English
Darwin and the Victorian Novel

Time: Two hours

Full marks:30

Answer *any two* questions. All questions carry equal marks [15x2]

1. Comment on Charles Darwin's dramatic portrayal of natural warfare in *On the Origin of Species*.
2. Can we read *Middlemarch* as an account of 'the history of man' as well as an investigation into 'how that mysterious admixture behaves under the varying experiments of Time'? Justify your answer.
3. Roger Hamley's character in *Wives and Daughters* allows Elizabeth Gaskell to offer a sophisticated examination of how evolutionary biology contributed to political and social change in the era of the first Reform Bill. Comment.
4. Darwin's own vision of humankind's reduction of 'nature' to an 'abnormal' state of artifice closely resembles Bronte's in its contempt for the human ignorance of the subtler design of Nature. Consider *Wuthering Heights* in the light of this remark.
5. In *The Water Babies*, Charles Kingsley uses Darwinian ideas to comment on the Malthusian order of things. Elucidate.
6. How are gender relations explained in Bulwer-Lytton's *The Coming Race*? Answer with suitable examples.
7. Thomas Hardy's *Two on a Tower* chooses personal relationships as the novel's proper subject and asserts that scientific matters lie outside the purview of fiction. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
8. Comment on H. G. Wells's use of time as a fourth dimension in *The Time Machine*.