

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

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. In its preoccupation with myth, fantasy, and the occult, does *The Master and Margarita* deliberately break with the protocols of modernist fiction? Give reasons for your answer.
2. In the *Periodic Table*, Levi wrote: 'The trade of chemist (justified in my case by the experience of Auschwitz) teaches you to overcome, indeed to ignore, certain revulsions that are neither necessary nor congenital: matter is matter, neither noble or vile, infinitely transformable; and its proximate origin is of no importance whatsoever'. In light of this statement, comment on how Levi deploys the scientist's objectivity as a narrative tool.
3. In *Night Flight*, St-Exupéry simultaneously draws attention to the romance and heroism associated with the solitary pilot, and the iron discipline under which he has to operate. Are these two impulses compatible? Discuss.
4. '[T]he philosophical thrust of *Solaris* is not merely to estrange. It also takes as its very subject matter the category of estrangement, the relationship...between the familiar and the other, between identity and alterity; and it explores the functions and limits of cognition itself in coming to terms with this relationship'. Comment.
5. 'In *The Piano Player*, Jelinek locates the root of Austrian fascism in the family'. Discuss.