

Master of Arts Examination, 2022
Second Year Fourth Semester
Department of English
Literature and Marginality

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer three questions taking *one* from *each* group. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A

1. a. "The rejection of caste is possible only when Dalits start articulating themselves and assert the Dalit subject." Comment.
Or
b. "The best of men cannot be moral if the basis of relationship between them and their fellows is fundamentally a wrong relationship." – Comment on B.R. Ambedkar's statement with reference to his arguments regarding the caste system as presented in his *Annihilation of Caste*.
2. a. "Having wrested it from the rat, it now had to surrender it to the victorious man." How does this story justify Omprakash Valmiki's comment about Dalit literature being the "literature of life and literature of the desire to live"? Which other stories that you have read in your course would you want to include in this category and why?
Or
b. "It was not just the hacking and hewing of trees; it was much more, like severing the heads of peace-loving people." How do the stories you have read in this module discuss the two sides of the 'development discourse'? Critically comment with reference to some of the stories you have read in this course.
3. Discuss the intersectionalities of gender and caste with reference to Baby Halder's autobiography *A Life Less Ordinary*.
4. Analyse "The Tree of Violence" as a Dalit Panther activist's vision of an "other India".
5. "Inter-generational dialogues are important in Dalit poetic reflections on what Vemula termed the 'accident of birth'". Elaborate.

Group B

1. Reflect on Susan Sontag's arguments as developed in her "Illness as Metaphor," and apply them to critique the metaphorical usage of disability in any text of your choice.
2. Attempt an essay on the use of sight imagery in *Oedipus at Colonus*.
3. Discuss the trope of disability in science fiction, with suitable examples.

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4. What did Freud mean by “deferred action” and “conversion symptom” in the case of hysteria? Illustrate your answer.
5. Comment on the ways in which the physical deformity of the monarch and the ruptures in the body politic of the kingdom are linked in Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Group C

1. How does Lorde's seminal lecture, “I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing across Sexualities” reinforce the debate on 'theory in the flesh' within discourses of black feminism?
2. What kind of emotional struggles inform the poetry produced by the queer of colour folks starting from Lorde, Parker to Young? Answer with respect to the film text you have read.
3. Discuss the intersectionalities of sexuality and disability with reference to Robert McRuer's *Crip Theory*.
4. How would you apply Crenshaw's theorisation of the intersectionality of race and gender to the question of queer identities and their intersections with class? Explain with examples.
5. Is it possible to revisit the binary of centre and margin in the context of queer identities? Explain with reference to Deepa Mehta's *Fire* and the debates around it.