

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017  
First Year Second Semester  
ENGLISH  
The Historical Novel

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. According to Lukacs what are the historical conditions that led to the construction of the classical historical novel in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century? Comment briefly on Diana Wallace's critique of Lukacs.
2. Analyse how Victor Hugo makes use of unrecorded history and an unlikely protagonist to construct *Notre Dame de Paris*.
3. How did the women in the court of Henry VIII negotiate with power in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*? Comment briefly on Anne Boleyn's position in the power hierarchy.
4. In *The Blue Flower* by Penelope Fitzgerald, why do you think Fritz falls in love with Sophie? How does Sophie react to Fritz's declaration of his intent to marry her?
5. What do you think the removal of the Les Innocents cemetery signifies in Andrew Miller's *Pure*? How does Miller imagine Paris in this novel?
6. Analyse *One Day in the life of Ivan Denisovich* as a novel that foregrounds the history of an ordinary man who is often marginalised in History.
7. Why does Liesel become a book thief? What does *The Book Thief* tell us about the significance of reading and writing in Nazi Germany?
8. What does becoming a Geisha mean to Sayuri in the *Memoirs of a Geisha*? How does Sayuri make the transition to modernity?
9. In what ways do the Maharaj Kumar and the Princess act as harbingers of modernity within the rigidly traditional social and political structure of Mewar in Kiran Nagarkar's *Cuckold*?