

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017

Second Year Third Semester

ENGLISH

Special author: Robert McCammon

Time: 2 hours

Full marks: 30

Answer *three* questions, choosing *at least one* from each Group. The questions carry equal marks

Group A

Early and Transitional Phase

1. How, if at all, does being set in a hospital enhance the horror in *Best Friends*?
2. Comment on the use of intertextuality in 'The Deep End'.
3. '*Usher's Passing* takes a quintessential Gothic narrative and turns it into a horror novel, replacing enigma with explanations, atmosphere with action, and a subtext of violence with outright gore.' Is this an apt evaluation of the novel, or do you think that, in addition to these, some Gothic ingredients remain in *Usher's Passing*? Answer with close reference to the text.
4. Select any *two* of McCammon's short stories from the transitional phase of his career, and analyse what makes them representative of this phase.
5. How is Michael Gallatin different from the other spies and lycanthropes of popular literature? Answer with detailed reference to *The Wolf's Hour*.

Group B

(Later Phase)

6. Is the magic realism in *Boy's Life* compatible with the many passages describing racism and death? Discuss.
7. How successfully does McCammon intertwine the detective story in *Speaks the Nightbird* with social concerns relevant to 18<sup>th</sup> Century America?
8. Given how late the titular 'Queen of Bedlam' appears in the narrative, is it possible to justify the title of the novel? Give reasons for your answer.
9. Comment on McCammon's handling of the motif of quest in *Gone South*.
10. Do you think *I Travel by Night* marks a return to the early phase of McCammon's writings, or does it have more in common with his later output? Substantiate your answer.