

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2023

(3rd Year, 6th Semester)

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Course – UG/CL/Core/6.4A

(Journey through Western and Indian Thought)

Full Marks: 30

Time: Two Hours

All questions carry equal marks.

Answer all questions either in English or in Bangla
but all *three* in the same language

1a. How did Buddhism, as a heterodox tradition, propose ideas about the ethical duty of an individual as the critique of the Brahminical ideas of *dharmā*? Discuss focusing on *Dhammapada* and the *Jataka* Tales.

Or,

1b. How were the Sufis instrumental in spreading Islam in the Indian subcontinent in the medieval period? Discuss the use of language and poetic parameters by these Sufis to orient the literary community to Islam with close reference to texts from at least two genres to substantiate your argument.

2a. Assess the impact of Plato and Epicurus on More's *Utopia*.

Or,

2b. What was the Democratic City in Al Farabi's concept? How far did he diverge from Plato?.

3a. Do you think that the debates regarding caste between B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi are relevant today in the context of the ongoing social, political and economic issues in India? Explain your opinions critically with relevant textual resources.

Or,

3b. Did René Descartes and Immanuel Kant contradict Thomas Aquinas' moral laws in their arguments for the existence of God and the immortality of the soul? Provide suitable textual references.