

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2023
First Year, Second Semester
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
The Growth of the Novel

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

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

1. Do you think that, besides being a well-known adventure story, Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* is a novel about religion? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples from the novel.
2. In the preface to *Joseph Andrews*, Henry Fielding labels the novel as a "comic epic in prose." Is it possible to apply the same label to *Tom Jones* as well? Give reasons for your answer.
3. "Ann Radcliffe's tendency to ultimately offer rational explanations for the seemingly supernatural occurrences in *The Mysteries of Udolpho* diminishes the Gothic charisma of the novel." Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
4. What roles do the following women characters play in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*: (a) Mrs Smith; (b) Sophia Croft; and (c) Louisa Musgrove?
5. Write an essay on why Charles Dickens chose to begin *Hard Times* with a scene set in a classroom.
6. "In *Middlemarch*, George Eliot offers us a critique of marriage, anatomising its idealistic aspirations as well as its inevitable frustrations." Discuss.
7. Comment on the narrative strategies employed by Bram Stoker in *Dracula*. Why do you think he deploys new textual technologies so consistently in the novel?