

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023
First Year, Second Semester
English
Darwin and the Victorian Novel

Time: Two hours

Full marks:30

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

1. What were the key observations and experiences that led Charles Darwin to formulate his theory of evolution by natural selection?
2. What was the reception of Charles Darwin's ideas within the scientific community and society at large, and how did his theories impact subsequent scientific research and intellectual discourse?
3. How does Bulwer Lytton's portrayal of a highly advanced and evolved humanoid race in *The Coming Race* reflect or diverge from Darwin's theories on human evolution?
4. How does George Eliot's *Middlemarch* explore the tension between scientific rationality and the complexities of human emotions and moral choices?
5. In what ways does Elizabeth Gaskell incorporate Darwinian principles into the portrayal of female characters in *Wives and Daughters*?
6. How does Charles Kingsley's novel *The Water Babies* explore the themes of transformation and moral growth? What deeper philosophical or moral ideas does Kingsley convey through the allegorical journey of the protagonist?
7. How does the setting of the moors in *Wuthering Heights* mirror the harsh, competitive nature of the natural world and the themes of power and dominance within the story?
8. What parallels can be drawn between the predatory nature of vampires in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and the natural world as described by Darwin's theories on evolution and survival of the fittest?
9. In H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, how does water in the time traveller's narrative become a redemptive motif?