

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2023
First Year Second Semester
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
The Historical Novel

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

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

- 1) Do you think the Historical Novel as a genre complicates and confuses our reading of History? Justify your answer with reference to the texts you have read.
- 2) What do you think are the significant factors that propel Thomas Cromwell to the pinnacle of success while leading Thomas More to his ruin, as represented in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*? Discuss.
- 3) How does Kiran Nagarkar represent the Bhakti saint Meerabai in his novel *Cuckold*? Is Nagarkar's Meerabai relevant to our contemporary times?
- 4) Critically comment on the complex representation of Enlightenment rationality in Andrew Miller's *Pure*.
- 5) What do you think the "Blue Flower" means in the short fragment that Hardenburg wrote? Why did Penelope Fitzgerald also choose *The Blue Flower* as the title of her novel on Novalis and the early German Romantics?
- 6) Why do you think Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn chose to write about an ordinary day in a Soviet labour camp in *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*? What kind of historical perspective might it give rise to?
- 7) Analyze why it is of critical importance for Liesel Meminger to progress from a consumer of books to a producer of books in Nazi Germany in Marcus Zusak's *The Book Thief*.