

Jadavpur University

Department of English

FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR DEGREE EXAMINATION, 2024

First Year, Second Semester

The Victorian Period

Paper Code:

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Attempt any four questions taking one from each of the four COs

CO1: Identify the cardinal features of the selected novels and short stories. 10 x1=10 marks

1. A. Critically comment on Elizabeth Gaskell's representation of the industrial strike in her novel *North and South*.
B. "*Wuthering Heights* has a peculiar narrative method, in which there is no first-person narrator, yet every word is spoken by a character in the story, and the author remains withdrawn ..." Discuss the narrative of *Wuthering Heights* in the light of this statement, with proper textual references.
C. Describe Charles Dickens' short story 'A Christmas Tree' as an essentially Christian text establishing the celebration of humanity through the Christmas festivity.
D. "Thomas Hardy's 'The Three Strangers' plays with the idea of appearance and reality." Justify the statement by critically examining the characters of the first and second stranger in the text.

CO2: Acquire knowledge of the conventional as well as innovative interpretations of the selected poems. 5 x1 = 5 marks

2. Locate and Annotate:
A. To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.
B. No pain felt she;
I am quite sure she felt no pain.
C. And we are here as on a darkling plain
Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night.

CO3: Carry out detailed scholarly analyses of the selected non-fictional text. 5x1=5 marks

3. A. According to Henry Mayhew, who are the costermongers? What is their role within the urban economy of London?
B. Why does Mayhew say that the costermongers are "seldom or never capitalists"? Answer with close reference to 'London Labour and the London Poor.'

[Turn over

CO4: Examine at length the critical contexts of the selected play.

10 x 1=10 marks

4. A. "You can always tell an old soldier by the inside of his holsters and cartridge boxes." How does the speaker justify the statement? What does this say about the speaker and his attitude in the play? Answer with reference to textual examples.
- B. "Of all the fools ever let loose on a battle-field, that man must be the very maddest." Who is being spoken of here and by whom? Comment on the justification of this quote with reference to the play.