

BA EXAMINATION 2024
Third Year, Sixth Semester
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Contemporary Literature

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. a. "In or about December, 1910, human character changed.... All human relations ... shifted – those between masters and servants, husbands and wives, parents and children. And when human relations change there is at the same time a change of religion, conduct, politics, and literature." Comment.

OR

b. Write a critical essay on the use of plural narratives as a strategy by the writers of the Post-World War II period with textual examples from any two novels you have studied in your course.

2. a. With reference to Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*, answer the following questions:
(i) What significance do names have in the novel? Answer with examples
(ii) Do you agree that Grace Poole, "cardboard world," and retrospection are germane to our understanding of Part Three of the novel? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

b. "[A] form that I want to call "historiographic metafiction".... I mean those well-known and popular novels which are both intensely self-reflexive and yet paradoxically also lay claim to historical events and personages." Comment with reference to *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.

3. a. Write a critical essay on any two of the social conditions that Toni Morrison deals with in 'Recitatif.'

OR

b. "We don't want our little queen to catch a cold." Comment on the ending of Roald Dahl's story 'Royal Jelly.'

4. a. Examine how Heaney reflects on the cultural role of the poet during times of political conflict and uncertainties. Answer with reference to the relevant poems.

OR

b. "Atwood's poems are commonly located in a territory that is both the phenomenal world of ordinary experience and a mythologized landscape of the imagination". Discuss with reference to the poems you have studied in your course.

5. Of the many poems in *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, which did you find most powerful and why?