

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2024
First Year Second Semester
ENGLISH
The Historical Novel

Time: Two hours

Full Marks: 30

Course Outcomes

The students of the course should be able to

CO1: Understand the historical context and theoretical structure of the historical novel.

CO2: Understand the Marxist and feminist discourses of the historical novel.

CO3: Understand the developments of the historical novel over the nineteenth and twentieth century.

CO4: Understand the contemporary developments of the historical novel in Europe and the United States, Asia, Africa, and South America.

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

- 1) Do you think that it is primarily the nationalist preoccupation with historical narratives that lead to the efflorescence of historical novels in certain periods? Discuss. (CO1, CO2)
- 2) Analyse Thomas Cromwell's relationship with Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and Thomas More in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*. (CO2, CO3, CO4)
- 3) Given the role that the Maharajkumar plays in the history of Mewar in Kiran Nagarkar's *Cuckold*, would you read him as a hero or an anti-hero? Justify your position. (CO2, CO4)
- 4) Would you agree that Andrew Miller's *Pure* evocatively illustrates our complex and ambiguous response to History? (CO2, CO3, CO4)
- 5) Write a brief critical essay on Penelope Fitzgerald's representation of love and longing in *The Blue Flower*. (CO2, CO4)
- 6) According to Shukov in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, who are the people who will not be able to survive in the camp? How has Shukov survived his long period of incarceration? (CO2, CO4)
- 7) In his novel *The Book Thief*, Marcus Zusak represents Germans, young and old, with varying political affiliations in war-time Nazi Germany. Examine closely three characters who have chosen to occupy different locations within the contemporary political spectrum and explain why they might have made their choices. (CO2, CO3, CO4)