

**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY**  
**MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION**  
**FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**IDEA OF THE MODERN 1: RENAISSANCE, REFORM, REVOLUTION**

**Time: Two hours**

**Full Marks: 30**

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss some of the larger implications of the present use of the term 'early modern period' on the idea of the Renaissance as a cultural phenomenon.
2. "Petrarch's description of his climb of Mount Ventoux combines the sense of tactile difficulty with moral allegory." Discuss.
3. Analyse Boccaccio's use of the context of the plague to talk about the regenerative power of storytelling. Answer with close reference to the 'Prologue' and 'Introduction to Day One'.
4. Why does Descartes decide to call his work "Meditations"? How does this influence the strategy he adopts to present his radical viewpoint regarding epistemology?
5. Examine how Montaigne's essay "An Apology for Raymond Sebond" can be read as a sceptical meditation on the limitations of human knowledge and understanding.
6. "The importance of the study of travel writing of the early modern period lies in the fact that they were all part of the movement of European 'exploration and discovery' from the fifteenth century onwards, setting into motion a process of globalization and transculturation that is still with us today." Discuss with specific examples.
7. "You taught me language and my profit on it [is]...I know how to curse." Argue how Caliban creates a counter-discursive space in *The Tempest* through such articulations.
8. Of all the examples cited in *Il Principe* is there anyone who qualifies as Machiavelli's ideal new prince? Give reasons.
9. Critically evaluate how Kelly's essay contributes to the gendering of the European Renaissance.
10. Discuss Donne's use of geographical conceits in his *Holy Sonnets*.