

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025

2nd Year, 2nd Semester

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Subject Code : ARTS/COMP/UG/MAJOR/TH/22/203

(EUROPEAN LITERATURE : RENAISSANCE AND NEO - CLASSICISM)

Time : Two Hours

Full Marks : 30

Answer *either* in English *or* in Bengali but all *three* in the same language.

All questions carry equal marks.

CO1 : (Answer ***any one*** question from CO1)

1. (a) Machiavelli in *II Principe* has consistently focussed on the integral aspects of Renaissance Humanism which emphasized the separation of the private and the public. To what extent was Shakespeare influenced by Machiavelli's ideas when he wrote *Macbeth* ? Answer with relevant references to both these texts.

Or

- (b) Compare and contrast the ways in which acquisition and retention of power are dealt with in Machiavelli's *II Principe* and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Cite relevant textual references in support of your arguments.

CO2 : (Answer ***any one*** question from CO2)

2. (a) The Neoclassical obsession with laws and rules in every aspect of life was not oriented toward a blind regimentation of human behaviour but reflected a fear of the innate chaos in the human nature and its potential to destroy reason. Examine this statement with a close analysis of Racine's *Phaedra*.

Or

- (b) Did the prescriptive literary theory of the Neo-classical Age affect its literary imagination adversely ? Discuss with reference to *Phaedra* by Racine.

CO3 : (Answer ***any one*** question from CO3)

3. (a) How would you situate Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock* in the context of contemporary socio-culture realities ? Substantiate your argument with textual references.

Or

- (b) Discuss how *Robinson Crusoe* combines new features, such as its focus on Crusoe's personal agency and material surroundings, with conventional themes, such as religious notions of providence or moral lessons and moves toward the beginning of the Realist novel. How does this new combination appeal to the 18th century middle-class reader's values and worldview ?

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