

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025

2nd Year, 2nd Semester

DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Subject Code : CBCS/COM/UG/CORE/4.1(OLD)

MODERNISM IN WESTERN LITERATURES

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.

1. (a) What according to you are the common features shared by such diverse novels like *To the Lighthouse* and *The Plague* to justify their inclusion under the rubric of Modernism ?

Or

- (b) Milan Kundera presents his personal conception of the European novel as 'an art born of the laughter of God'. In this context, attempt a critical analysis of the narrative techniques deployed in *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*.

2. (a) 'Epic theatre is the product of a historical imagination.' Discuss this comment with reference to Brecht's *Mother Courage and her Children*.

Or

- (b) Do you agree that the Modernist plays studied in your course take as their content the 'problems of the age' but differ widely in representational approaches ? Comment with close reference to the plays by Ibsen and Arthur Miller taught in your syllabus.

3. (a) Discuss how French Symbolist poems establish a correspondence between art and the senses reached through synaesthesia. Elucidate your answer with reference to relevant poems.

Or

- (b) Rilke's Duino Elegies embody a search for transcendence in a hyper-rationalized world where even death is dead. Elucidate with close reference to the elegies.

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