

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2025

Semester VI (CBCS)

English

DSE 4: Literature and Cinema (Optional)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Answer Question 1 and *any three* questions from the rest

All questions are of equal value

1. (a) Comment critically on the use of different verbal languages in a literary text and its film adaptation. You may refer to literary and cinematic texts outside your syllabus.

or,

(b) Discuss the policies and politics that inform cinematic adaptations of literary works. How have they been used in the literary/film texts prescribed in your syllabus?
2. Discuss in detail, with reference to films *you* have watched, the various ways in which James Monaco breaks down the 'syntax' of a film.
3. Analyse critically the portrayal of the narrator in both *Ice Candy Man* and *1947: Earth*.
4. Comment critically on *Maqbool* as an intercultural adaptation of *Macbeth* with reference to any three aspects.
5. (a) In *Charulata*, the *auteurial* gaze seems to 'look' at the world through the eyes of the heroine and not merely to 'represent' her. How far is this observation relevant for the rewriting of Tagore by Ray?

or,

(b) Critically discuss the significance of the changes in the 'story' and the 'plot' elements in the movement from *Noshto Neerh* to *Charulata*.
6. Analyse critically the positioning of the geographical locale as portrayed in the literary and cinematic texts in your syllabus.

BA (Honours) Examination, 2025
Semester VI (CBCS)
English
DSE4: Research Methodology (Optional)
(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

All questions are of equal value

Answer Question No. 1 and any Three from the rest

1. a) The abstract of a proposed paper is a cross between a précis and a concept note. Justify and illustrate with reference to what you know of the key contents of an abstract.

Or

b) How would you distinguish between a research question raised in an academic paper and the argument offered by that paper? Elucidate with examples from a hypothetical project that you have *not* worked on.
2. Contrast an essay with duly completed citations with one that does not provide citations. How would their reception differ based on readership?
3. Based on the academic essays you have read; what would you consider to be the best practices in this category of writing?
4. How would you distinguish between citations, annotated bibliography and literature review in the context of a research paper?
5. What are the challenges and the conveniences of researching canonical literary texts in the twenty-first century? Answer with reference to a research project you have begun.
6. Discuss the process informing your selection of a topic for a research paper you have written.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2025

Semester VI (CBCS)

English

DSE 3: Literary Theory (Optional)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value. Answer *any four* questions.

1. Write an essay explaining why Saussure is considered the founding figure of structuralism for his ideas developed in *Course in General Linguistics*.
2. In "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," Derrida counters the notion of a structure with a centre, a point of presence where the structure originates with the idea that knowledge in the world cannot be anchored to stable origins but is subject to radical 'play.' Do you agree? Discuss.
3. How does Raymond Williams, in the introduction to *Culture and Society 1780-1950*, propose to locate the history of British culture in the realm of materiality? Discuss critically.
4. Why, according to Louis Althusser, does one need to modify the "descriptive" Marxist model of the state? How does he take up the task in "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus"?
5. What are the various orientalisms Edward Said talks about in the introduction to *Orientalism*? How does he discuss Orientalism as a "discourse"?
6. Evaluate Mahatma Gandhi's vision as a philosopher of education working in a colonial context by analysing chapter XVIII of *Hind Swaraj*.
7. Comment on the theoretical premise of Simone de Beauvoir's categorisation of woman as the Other.

B.A. (Honours) Examination 2025

English

Semester VI

CC-14: Postcolonial Literatures

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Attempt question no.1 and three other questions

- 1. (a) How is the plurality of the postcolonial experience captured in the texts of your syllabus? Discuss critically.**

OR

(b) 'Writing back' to the empire is considered an important task of the postcolonial writer. Citing references from the texts in your syllabus, discuss some of the techniques of 'writing back' employed by the writers you have studied.

- 2. Discuss the politics of Achebe's unromantic representation of Igbo cultural practices at a specific stage of the Nigerian anti-colonial movement.**
- 3. Marquez's depiction of violence in *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* is exhibitionist. Do you agree? Justify your opinion with suitable references from the text.**
- 4. How do Ama Ata Aidoo's "The Girl Who Can" and Grace Ogot's "The Green Leaves" depict the impact of traditional cultural values vis-à-vis modern influences on individual women's identities and choices? Discuss critically.**
- 5. Critically comment on the poetic 'I' in Derek Walcott's 'A Far Cry from Africa' and 'Names.'**
- 6. Do you think both 'Tonight I can Write' and 'The Way Spain Was' can be accommodated in Pablo Neruda's concept of 'impure poetry'? Substantiate your answer with suitable references from the texts.**

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2025

Semester VI (CBCS)

English

CC-13: Modern European Drama

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer Question no 1 and any *three* from the rest.

1. a) How does Modern European Drama from the late 19th to the early 20th century represent the socio-political changes of the period?

or

b) Write a note on the importance of the Absurdist Movement in Modern European Drama.

2. Consider the view that *Waiting for Godot* is an expression of the post-war condition.

3. How does *Rhinoceros* serve as an allegory for political regimes and mass movements? Discuss.

4. Discuss how the ending of *Life of Galileo* challenges traditional notions of heroism and moral integrity.

5. Consider Ibsen's *A Doll's House* as a realist play.

6. Discuss how Modern European Drama experiments with form and content.

B.A. (Honours) Examination 2021
Semester – VI (CBCS)
English
Paper: CC-14 (Core)
(Postcolonial Literatures)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer any three from the rest.

1. (a) How do the postcolonial authors in the your syllabus respond to the colonial condition. Discuss critically.

Or,

(b) What does Marquez mean by the 'monstrous reality of Latin America'? Discuss with reference to the texts you have read.

2. (a) *Things Fall Apart* comments on the essential hybridity of the postcolonial Nigerian identity. How far would you agree?

Or,

(b) How does Marquez explore the theme of state oppression in *No One Writes to the Colonel*?

3. Ama Ata Aidoo's "The Girl Who Can" celebrates the act of breaking free from conventions. Do you agree? Elucidate.

4. Critically comment on the dilemma faced by the speaker in Derek Walcott's "A Far Cry from Africa."

5. Pablo Neruda combines the notions of solitude and solidarity in his poetry. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.

6. The literary works of Mamang Dai document the cycle of life. Discuss with reference to the texts you are familiar with.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2024
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
DSE 3: Literary Theory (Optional)

For regular and back candidates

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value. Answer *any four* questions.

1. "Language is a system of signs that express ideas." Discuss with reference to Saussure's *Course in General Linguistics*.
2. In "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," Derrida posits that knowledge in the world cannot be anchored to stable origins but is subject to radical 'play.' Do you agree? Discuss.
3. Critically discuss the role of state apparatuses in a modern nation-state with examples from your own context.
4. "The changes in their use, at this critical period, bear witness to a general change in our characteristic ways of thinking about our common life." Respond critically to the statement.
5. "To become a passive resister is easy enough, but it is also equally difficult." Bring out the full significance of this observation with an analysis of chapter XVII of *Hind Swaraj*.
6. 'Orientalism,' as a body of knowledge, is essentially implicated in a web of power and agency. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.
7. How does Beauvoir argue that woman has always been positioned as the 'other'? Answer with reference to *The Second Sex*.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2024
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
CC - 13: Modern European Drama

For regular and back candidates

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question no. 1 is compulsory; choose **any three** from the rest

1. (a) The Absurdist playwrights did away with most of the logical structures of traditional theatre. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the texts in your syllabus.

or,

(b) Examine critically the experiments in form and content in modern European drama.

2. What are the ideas in Ibsen's *A Doll's House* in relation to women's rights? Discuss in detail.
3. Critically analyse *Life of Galileo* as Epic Theatre.
4. Analyse the theme of waiting in *Waiting for Godot*.
5. Critically examine the relationship between individualism and conformity in *Rhinoceros*.
6. Discuss, with reference to any play in your syllabus, how modern European drama can plead for social change.

BA Honours Examination, 2023
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
DSE 4 Research Methodology

Total Marks: 60

Time: 3 Hours

Questions are of equal value
Attempt Question No. 1 and any three from the rest

1. a) How would you distinguish between a research proposal and a statement of purpose? Illustrate with the help of test cases that you can think of.
- Or

1. b) Your essay-type answer in response to a question on a major poem, prose-piece or play was well received. What changes would you need to make to it in order to turn it into a research article? Discuss with reference to a single text.
2. Write short notes on any two of the following topics:
- a) Keywords versus literary terms
 - b) Works Cited versus citations
 - c) Primary texts versus secondary texts
 - d) Textual analysis versus textual paraphrase
3. Attempt a 250-words long abstract of a proposed paper with a suitable title based on the following concept note:

We invite submissions to a special journal issue that we would like to propose to *Medical Humanities* on the topic "Making Modern Maternity." Our aim for the special issue will be to explore the ways in which pregnancy, childbirth, and maternal experiences have been constructed as "modern" (or not) at multiple sites and through various forms of media including popular magazines, newspapers, television and film, fiction, "expert" advice, advertisements, and medical records. In terms of temporal and geographic scope, we are soliciting contributions that focus on the late-nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, with no geographical restrictions. ... Overall, our goal for the proposed special issue is to enrich the scope of these ongoing critical conversations by providing answers to the question: how has the representation of maternity in the material cultures of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries contributed to our understanding of motherhood, menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, abortion, reproductive technologies, and the various objects that are inextricably connected to maternity? Prospective authors are encouraged to bring their arguments into conversation with broader and interdisciplinary scholarship in the medical humanities, and foreground the contemporary significance of their work.

We seek proposals for original research articles (5000-9000 words, excluding references) from scholars working across a range of disciplines such as literary studies, history, political science, philosophy, sociology, and gender studies. We are especially interested in manuscripts considering maternity from non-Western contexts, and we welcome engagements with any aspect of the historical representation of childbirth, menstruation, pregnancy, motherhood, and the myriad technological innovations, cultural conversations, and politicized implications of modern maternity since the late nineteenth century. [Special Issue: "Making Modern" (Source: UPenn cfp)]

4. Convert the following citations into *in-text parentheses* (with fictitious page numbers) and corresponding *Works Cited entries*:

We draw inspiration from more recent projects that embrace approaches rooted in the study of material culture, such as Michelle Millar Fisher and Amber Winick's *Designing Motherhood: Things that Make and Break Our Births* (Cambridge: MIT Press 2021), which examines the design histories of objects that have shaped modern motherhood, as well as *Stroller* by Amanda Parrish Morgan (London: Bloomsbury 2022) and *Pregnancy Test* by Karen Weingarten (London: Bloomsbury 2023) that similarly consider how these material objects have been advertised, represented, and sold so that by the twenty-first century they have become synonymous with maternity in the western world. Furthermore, we draw attention to Angela Garbes in *Essential Labor: Mothering as Social Change* (New York: Harper Collins, 2022) and Brianna Theobald's *Reproduction on the Reservation: Pregnancy, Childbirth, and Colonialism in the Long Twentieth Century* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019).

5. Distinguish between practical criticism and critical appreciation with the help of suitable illustrations.
6. What are the essential qualities of a good researcher? Substantiate your response.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2023
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
DSE 3 Literary Theory (Optional)

Full Marks: 60

Time: 3 hours

Questions are of equal value
Answer *any four* questions.

1. Write an essay on Gandhi's ideas on the ideal education system as developed in Chapter 18 of *Hind Swaraj*.
2. In "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences," for Derrida, the centre enables the structurality of the structure, but inhibits play and allows a limited discourse to take place within the structure itself. Elucidate his views.
3. What, according to Saussure, are the two primordial characteristics of the linguistic sign? Discuss his ideas.
4. Comment on the contribution of *The Second Sex* to feminist thinking with instances from the text.
5. Edward W. Said argues that the "relationship between Occident and Orient is a relationship of power, of domination, of varying degrees of a complex hegemony." Discuss.
6. How, according to Raymond Williams in his 'Introduction' to *Culture and Society*, can the pattern of change in the meaning of five significant words in modern Britain be used as a map to observe the broader changes in its life and thought? Analyse.
7. Write an essay, after Althusser, on the relationship between 'ideology,' 'state,' and 'ideological state apparatuses' and its internal dynamics as evident in any society.

B.A. Examination 2023
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
Paper: CC-13 (Core)
Modern European Drama

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question No. 1 is compulsory. Choose any three from the rest

1. (a) Discuss any three features of the Theatre of the Absurd.

Or

(b) Write a note on the experiments in language made by the modern European playwrights you have read.

2. Write a critical note on the role of Nora in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.
3. Discuss the theme of modernity versus tradition in *Life of Galileo*.
4. Do you think that *Waiting for Godot* is a tragicomedy? Discuss with reference to the text.
5. Does Eugene Ionesco provide a theme of tragedy and heroism in his play *Rhinoceros*? Discuss.
6. Critically comment on the dramatic structure of *Waiting for Godot*.

BA (Honours) 2023
English
Semester VI
CC-14 Postcolonial Literatures

Time: Three hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer any three from the rest.

1. a) Postcolonial literatures, though sharing certain common concerns, respond primarily to specific local historical experiences. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.

Or

- b) What are the literary experiments through which the Empire writes back? Discuss with specific reference to texts in your syllabus.
2. *Things Fall Apart* responds to a long tradition of European (mis)representation of Africa. Discuss critically.
3. Critically comment on the major symbols used by Marquez to explore the decadent Colombian reality of his times in the text in your syllabus.
4. How do "The Collector of Treasures" and "The Girl Who Can" comment on the loopholes of postcolonial African modernity from women's perspective? Answer critically.
5. Critically comment on the significance of "green leaves" in "The Green Leaves."
6. What, for you, is the ideological thrust in Mamang Dai's poems included in your syllabus? Discuss in detail.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2022
English
Semester VI
(CBCS: For Regular and Back Candidates)
DSE 4
Literature and Cinema (Optional)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Answer Question 1 and *any three* questions from the rest.

All questions are of equal value

1. (a) Fidelity or faithfulness to the literary “source” text is a very reductive mode of understanding a film text. Do you agree? Comment critically.

OR

- (b) Cinema uses a language of its own to read, interpret and represent literature. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

2. How are signs and syntax used in films according to James Monaco in *How to Read a Film*?
3. How are personal relationships represented against the backdrop of the partition in both the text and the film *Ice Candy Man* and *1947: Earth*? Answer critically.
4. In *Charulata* Ray is interested in exploring the potential of the “new woman.” Comment critically.
5. Comment on Vishal Bharadwaj’s strategy in *Maqbool* to locate Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* in the Mumbai underworld and the world of Bombay gangster films.
6. How are private and public spaces explored in texts and films? Critically analyse with reference to at least two sets of text-film.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2022
English
Semester VI
(CBCS: For Regular and Back Candidates)
DSE 3
Literary Theory (Optional)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value. Answer *any four* questions.

1. Write an essay on Gandhi's theory of passive resistance as developed in *Hind Swaraj*.
2. What, according to Edward Said, are Orientalisms? Discuss how he develops his theories with a view to seeing Orientalism as a materially shaped knowledge-system.
3. How does the 'Introduction' to *Culture and Society: 1780 to 1950* help us gain insights into certain crucial transitions in British culture around the late-18th-early 19th centuries? Discuss critically.
4. Why, according to Louis Althusser, is an understanding of Ideological State Apparatuses necessary to refine the Marxian theory of social formation? Discuss with examples of how ISAs function in a modern state.
5. Write an essay on the arbitrary nature and the concept of value in the theory of the 'sign' as developed by Saussure in the excerpts from the book *Course in General Linguistics*.
6. In "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences" Derrida encourages us to embrace the play opened up by the absence of any foundational origin, presence, or centre – the play as an "affirmation of a world of signs without fault, without truth, and without origin". Discuss how this position would mark a departure from structuralism.
7. How does Beauvoir argue that woman has been positioned as the absolute 'Other' of man? Justify with reference to the text.

B. A. (Honours) Examination 2024
English (CBCS)
Semester VI
CC-14: Postcolonial Literatures

Time: Three hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer any three from the rest.

1. a) What constitutes the postcoloniality of postcolonial literatures? Discuss critically with examples.

or,

b) Pluralisation of identity is central to postcolonial literatures. How far would you agree? Discuss with specific reference to the texts in your syllabus.

2. Indigenisation of European forms and language is one way in which Achebe critiques the colonial project in *Things Fall Apart*. Discuss.

3. Critically assess the significance of Marquez's narrative strategy in *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*.

4. How does women's struggle against various traditional and modern forms of patriarchy inform the postcolonial short stories in your syllabus? Substantiate your answer through discussion of the texts.

5. Discuss, with reference to the work of any two non-Indian poets in your syllabus, how they explore the culture and politics of colonialism.

6. Elucidate how Mamang Dai reaffirms the agency of the landscape in her poems.

B.A. Semester VI Examination 2022

(CBCS: For Regular and Back Candidates)

English

Paper: CC-13 (Core)

(Modern European Drama)

Time: Three Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question no. 1 is compulsory; choose any three from the rest

1. a. Do you think that the Absurd play is a theatre of situation, as against the more conventional theatre of sequential events?

Or

- b. Write a note on experiments with language by the modern European playwrights you have read.

2. How does Ibsen's *A Doll's House* explore human consciousness? Explain.
3. What innovative theatrical methods does Brecht use in his *Life of Galileo*? Elucidate.
4. Write a critical note on the theme of waiting in *Waiting for Godot*.
5. How does Eugene Ionesco provide a critique of totalitarianism in his play *Rhinoceros*? Discuss
6. Discuss how modern European drama can be read as a plea for social change with reference to any play that you have read.