

Undergraduate Examination, 2024
Semester – II (NEP)
Comparative Literature
MDCL02
(Comparative Literature: Popular Literature and Culture)

Time – Three Hours

Full Marks – 60

Questions are of value as indicated in the margin

1. Answer the following questions: (Any Ten) 2X10 = 20

- a. What is a mainstream Hindi film?
- b. What is high culture?
- c. Name two female pop singers from the subcontinent.
- d. What is a plot?
- e. Name two films directed by Farah Khan.
- f. Who is an author?
- g. What is inherited tradition in Indian Literature?
- h. Who is the protagonist of *Lipstick Under My Burkha*?
- i. Who is the music director of *Pather Panchali*?
- j. Name two Indian film adaptations of popular literary works by Shakespeare.
- k. What is motif?
- l. Name two films which are adopted from Indian literary texts.

2. Write short notes on the following (Any Five) 5X5 = 25

- a. Intertextuality and Hindi cinema
- b. Censorship and popular culture
- c. Caste in Hindi films
- d. Multilinguality and Indian cinema
- e. Reincarnation in Hindi cinema
- f. Gender stereotypes in Indian advertisements
- h. Depiction of the 'Ideal Indian Woman' in contemporary Hindi cinema

3. Answer the following question (Any One) 15X1 = 15

- a. A proper analysis of popular Hindi films from the 1960s to 2000 will give us an idea about the diverse social changes in 'Modern India'. Comment with suitable references from at least two film texts.
- b. *Om Shanti Om* as a film text used all familiar idioms of popular films to create a language which is a critique of the cultural consumption of popular cinema. Do you agree with the statement? Answer with relevant textual examples.

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1. Answer **any ten** from the following questions:

2X10 = 20

- a. What is an archetype?
- b. What is mass culture?
- c. What is canon?
- d. What is a mise-en-scène?
- e. Who wrote the screenplay of *Sholay*?
- f. Name the film which has been referred to in the beginning of the film *Om Shanti Om*.
- g. Who is the Vamp in popular Hindi films?
- h. What is hegemony?
- i. What is Ideological State Apparatus?
- j. What is popular fiction?
- k. What is theme?
- l. What is the genre of the film *Sholay*?

2. Write **any five** short notes from the following:

5X5 = 25

- a. The courtesan in Bombay Cinema
- b. Class in Hindi films
- d. Homoeroticism in *Sholay*
- e. Nationalism in contemporary Indian cinema
- f. Significance of songs in Indian cinema
- g. Historiography and Indian pop-culture
- h. 'The Culture Industry'

3. Answer **any one** from the following questions:

15X1 = 15

- a) Do you think that there can be a feminist reading of films? Substantiate your views with a close reading of any one popular film text from your syllabus.
- b) How do you read the binary of 'wife and *tawaif*' in the predominantly male world of *Sholay*? Comment with suitable reference to the film text.