

(6 pages)

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M.A. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2012.

Second Semester

English /English with Computer Applications

FICTION — II

(For those who joined in July 2009 onwards)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 1 = 10 marks)

Answer ALL the questions.

1. Many of the characters in **Women in Love** do not conform to traditional gender norms. Mention any two characters.
2. Who is the protagonist in the novel **The Spire**?
3. What are Winston's feelings about the proletariat, its past, present, and future?
4. Who are the adolescent lovers in "Araby" and "The Dead," in **Dubliners**?

5. How are homosexuality, marriage and adultery treated in the novel **The Bell**?
6. What is the value of a "fugitive and cloistered virtue" based on innocence rather than experience?
7. To what extent Mary's feelings about male natives and about Moses in particular might be coloured by her repressed sexuality?
8. What is the problem that arose between the judge and Bose in **Inheritance of loss**?
9. What do you mean by the stream-of-consciousness technique used in the novel **Absalom, Absalom!**
10. What is Hemingway's "iceberg" principle of writing?

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL the questions choosing either (a) or (b).

11. (a) Golding's most distinctive technique in the novel **The Spire** is linking symbols to develop his themes. Elucidate.

Or

(b) Discuss how the impulses behind the building of the spire in the novel **The Spire** are both religious vision and personal pride?

12. (a) Describe Winston's character as it relates to his attitude toward the Party. In what ways might his fatalistic streak contribute to his ultimate downfall?

Or

- (b) Discuss the role of story titles in the collection. How does a given title interact with its story and with the titles of other stories? What is the significance of the collection's title?
13. (a) According to the novel, who or what is responsible for Catherine's madness and attempted suicide?

Or

- (b) Is it more important to have a clear vision of moral absolutes or an understanding of human complexity? Explain the statement with reference to the novel **The Bell**.
14. (a) What Mary, Dick and the other white people in this book feel about blacks in the novel **The Grass is Singing**? Do those feelings continue to manifest in the same kind of financial, emotional and physical violence? Provide examples.

Or

- (b) What are the privileges that the judge loses when he first returns from England?

15. (a) Why is the narration in Chapter Three suspect in authenticity in **Absalom, Absalom!**

Or

- (b) "A man can be destroyed but not defeated," says the old man after the first shark attack. At the end of the story, is the old man defeated? Why or why not?

SECTION C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL the questions choosing either (a) or (b).

16. (a) Discuss the statement that women are the cause of evil, they drag everything down and are "dirty and smelly" with reference to the novel **Women in Love**.

Or

- (b) Golding's most distinctive technique in the novel **The Spire** is linking symbols to develop his themes. Elucidate.

17. (a) Discuss the omnipresent posters of Big Brother in terms of his physical appearance as well as the phrase "Big Brother Is Watching You." What does the caption imply about the society in which Winston Smith lives?

Or

- (b) Do any stories contain moments in which Joyce's authorial voice and point-of-view seem to speak through the narrators? Use the text to show how this occurs and what Joyce expresses.
18. (a) "The extreme horrors of real life cannot be expressed in art." Exemplify the statement with reference to the novel **The Bell**.

Or

- (b) Discuss Murdoch's deft style of running the psychological scalpel into the minutiae of moral consciousness.
19. (a) Consider Dick's attitudes towards sexuality and children: How do his desires compliment and/or challenge to that of Mary's?

Or

- (b) What are the accusations charged by Gyan on Sai? Explain the reasons with suitable examples from the novel **Inheritance of Loss**.

20. (a) How did racism contribute to the downfall of the Sutpen clan? How was the downfall of the clan foreordained?

Or

- (b) Comment on the idea that Hemingway's novel, **The Old Man and the Sea**, celebrates endeavour rather than achievement.
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