

This question paper contains 4 printed pages]

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S. No. of Question Paper : 1287

Unique Paper Code : 203305

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Name of the Paper : Forms of Popular Fiction (i)

Name of the Course : B.A. (Hons.) II Yr

Semester : III

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Attempt all the *four* questions. Question No. 1 has *three* parts.

Each of these parts must be answered. Question No. 4

has *two* parts. Both the parts must be answered.

1. (a) Write a short note on the women characters in Agatha Christie's novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Or

"I demand of you a thousand pardons, monsieur. I am without defence. For some months now I cultivate the marrows. This morning suddenly I enrage myself with these marrows. I send them to promenade themselves—alas! not only mentally but physically. I seize the biggest. I hurl him over the wall. Monsieur, I am ashamed. I prostrate myself."

Comment on Poirot's characterisation in view of this introduction in Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

10

P.T.O.

- (b) Comment on issues relating to 'gender' and 'racism' in the gypsy fight scene in Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love*.

Or

Read the passage below from Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love* and answer the questions that follow :

'For the moment.' Rosa Klebb put on her official voice, 'I will be brief.....You will be taught certain foreign customs. You will be equipped with beautiful clothes. You will be instructed in all the arts of allurements...you will meet this man. You will seduce him.... Your body belongs to the State. Since your birth, the State has nourished it. Now your body must work for the State'.

- (i) Comment on the following :
 'equipped with beautiful clothes' and 'instructed in the arts of allurements'. 4
- (ii) Critically examine the line, 'Now your body must work for the State'. 6
- (c) Attempt short notes on any two :
- (i) Fantasy and children's literature
- (ii) Formula in popular fiction
- (iii) Popular fiction and cinema (remakes)
- (iv) The Cold War and popular fiction. 5×2=10

2. (a) "The mystery always begins with an ordered society that becomes disordered by crime of some sort....Consequently, the reader is introduced to a real society—a society filled with many types of people in a social, economic, geographic context that informs, entertains and enlightens." Discuss the social milieu of Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* in view of this statement by Dr. Sheppard.

Or

- (b) "I have no pity for myself either. So let it be Veronal. But I wish Hercule Poirot had never retired from work and come here to grow vegetable marrows." Discuss the ending of Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* in view of this statement by Dr. Sheppard. 15

3. Bond has become bigger, as it were, than just the action hero of Ian Fleming's novels, including *From Russia with Love*. He is today an iconic figure that finds representation in so many areas of popular culture, such as films, advertisements, brands and so on. Analyse James Bond as an iconic figure in the modern marketplace.

Or

Sexual attractiveness and sexual 'potency' are important tropes/signifiers of success in bestsellers. Examine this assertion with reference to Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love*. 15

4. (a) Comment on the significance of fantasy in Children's Literature as discussed in the essay 'Children's Literature : Theory and Practice' by Felicity Hughes.

Or

Umberto Eco alerts us, in his essay 'The Narrative Structure in Fleming', that Fleming's villains are distinct (ethnically) from Bond. What conclusions do you draw from this assertion ? 7

- (b) In his essay, 'On teaching SF critically', Darko Suvin connects "Daydreaming" with a "civic education" in the context of teaching SF. Discuss.

Or

In his essay, 'Introduction : Popular Fiction : Ideology or Utopia,' what alternative does Christopher Pawling offer to the 'Functionalist' view that Popular Fiction appeals to and reinforces a consensual and stable culture ? 8.