

This question paper contains 3 printed pages]

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S. No. of Question Paper : 5957

Unique Paper Code : 203305

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

Name of the Course : B.A. (Hons.) English

Semester : III

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

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

Attempt all *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 ending of Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

Or.

Discuss the role of women characters in Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*.

10

- (b) Write a note on the representation of Donovan Grant in Fleming's *From Russia with Love*.

P.T.O.

Or

Explain with reference to the context :

“Your body belongs to the State. Since your birth, the State has nourished it. Now your body must work for the State. Is that understood ?” 10

(c) Attempt short notes on any two : 2×5=10

(i) The importance of ‘formula’ in Popular Fiction.

(ii) Bestsellers are cultural products, but products nevertheless.

(iii) Science fiction is essentially exciting because of the use of fantasy.

(iv) Popular Literature promotes a ‘consensual’ view of popular culture.

2. (a) Discuss the significance of the setting in Christie’s novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, paying special attention to the names of the houses, and of the village itself.

Or

(b) In *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Christie deploys the clue (cluedo) puzzle formula of the classic ‘whodunit’, and fills the story with red herrings to tantalise and engage her readers.....” Discuss. 15

3. (a) The politics of the Cold War — wherein the West and the Soviets competed with each other to capture the cultural imagination of the people — shapes the imperatives of Ian Fleming’s *From Russia with Love*. Discuss.

Or

(b) Examine Fleming's *From Russia with Love* as a thriller novel, identifying and analysing in it 'ingredients' that typify the genre. 15

4. (a) In his essay 'Introduction : Popular Fiction : Ideology or Utopia,' Christopher Pawling insists is it important to analyse popular literature with the same academic rigor as 'canonical' literature. Why ? You may add your own reasons to those provided by Pawling.

Or

Would you agree with the contention that Darko Suvin's essay 'On Teaching SF Critically' fails to account for the popularity of the SF genre ? 7

(b) Critically comment on Henry James' distaste for the popular with reference to "Millions for whom taste is but an obscure, confused, immediate instinct" as cited by Felicity Hughes in her essay 'Children's Literature : Theory and Practice'.

Or

In his essay, 'The Narrative Structure in Fleming,' Umberto Eco examines the Manichean ideology that shapes Bond narratives. To what extent do thriller/spy fiction/best sellers (in novels and in film adaptations, etc.) continue to follow what Eco highlights ? 8