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ENGLISH

Paper : 2.4

Full Marks : 64

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks  
for the questions*

BLOCK—I

1. Do you agree that events such as Darwin's theory of evolution and agricultural depression of the seventies inform the dynamics of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*? Give a well-reasoned answer. 12

Or

Discuss *The Mayor of Casterbridge* as a novel about social mobility and the pains and pangs of social transition.

2. Write notes on any two of the following :

4×2=8

- (a) Women's space in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*
- (b) The minor characters and 'plotting'
- (c) Henchard's vow

BLOCK—II

3. In what way can *A Passage to India* be regarded as representative of Raj fiction and yet something that goes beyond the ambition of this limited genre? Give a well-considered response.

12

Or

Can the ending of *A Passage to India* be regarded as a typical instance of modernist open-endedness? Write your answer by also taking into consideration whether the preceding events prepare one for this ending or not.

4. Write notes on any *two* of the following :

4×2=8

- (a) Manipulation of point of view in *A Passage to India*
- (b) The cave episode
- (c) The colonial administration in Chandrapore

BLOCK—III

5. Discuss *Hard Times* as the study of the flows of the institution of family.

14

Or

Do you agree that the plot of *Hard Times* is unusual (for Dickens the Victorian) for its unity and compactness? Give reasons for your answer with suitable illustrations.

( 3 )

6. Comment critically on any *two* : 5×2=10

- (a) The sub-plot involving Stephen and Tom
- (b) The light and fire imagery
- (c) Bounderby and Mrs. Sparsit

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