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2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG4400204MJ

(British Fiction : Augustan to Victorian)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) What is the name of the estate that Mr. Lockwood rents from Heathcliff?

(b) Who does Emma initially try to set up as a romantic match for her friend Harriet Smith?

(c) What is the name of Emma's father in the novel, *Emma*?

(d) What is the name of the school system or 'philosophy' practised by Thomas Gradgrind?

(e) In which famous London prison is Moll Flanders born?

(f) What is the name of the estate where Emma Woodhouse lives?

(g) Under what pseudonym did Emily Brontë initially publish *Wuthering Heights*?

(h) In which fictional industrial town is the novel, *Hard Times* set?

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 2×6=12

(a) Why does Mr. Knightley reprimand Emma after the picnic at Box Hill?

(b) Why does Catherine Earnshaw decide to marry Edgar Linton instead of Heathcliff?

(c) Why does Moll feel she must marry for money rather than love?

(d) Who is the 'distracted preacher' in Thomas Hardy's story, and what is the primary cause of his distraction?

(e) What is the true reason for Frank Churchill's secret visit to Highbury, and how does it affect his behavior toward Emma?

(f) What is the 'wicked' trade Moll turns to in her later years to support herself?

(g) Why does Stephen Blackpool find it impossible to divorce his alcoholic wife?

(h) What happens during the sermon at the church in *The Distracted Preacher*? What is the preacher's reaction after the sermon?

(i) What is the significance of the two contrasting houses, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange, in the novel?

(j) What does 'Sissy Jupe' character represent in contrast to the Gradgrind children?

(Continued)

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) Analyze the character of Nelly Dean as a narrator. To what extent can the reader trust her account of the events at Wuthering Heights?

(b) Analyze the character of Harriet Smith. How does her role in the novel highlight Emma's flaws as a 'matchmaker'?

(c) How does Charles Dickens use the contrast between Thomas Gradgrind's 'Philosophy of Fact' and the world of Sleary's Circus to critique Victorian society?

(d) Analyze the character of Mrs. Sparsit. How does her 'staircase' metaphor represent the Victorian obsession with social climbing and the fall from grace?

(e) Discuss the role of 'repentance' in the novel, *Moll Flanders*. Is Moll's spiritual transformation in Newgate Prison genuine or merely a reaction to her fear of death?

(f) Analyze the character of Josiah Bounderby. How does his 'self-made man' narrative turn out to be a fabrication, and what does this reveal about his character?

(g) Analyze the conflict between religious morality and communal loyalty as depicted in the story, *The Distracted Preacher*.

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(h) Analyze the character of Heathcliff. To what extent do his suffering and quest for revenge make him a sympathetic character despite his cruelty?

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) Discuss the role of the physical landscape and setting in *Wuthering Heights*. How do the two primary locations—Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange—symbolize the contrasting personalities of the families that inhabit them?

(b) Discuss the theme of social hierarchy and 'gentility' in *Emma*. To what extent does Emma Woodhouse's personal growth depend on her learning to respect social boundaries and the feelings of others?

(c) Discuss how Dickens uses the failure of the Gradgrind education system to critique Utilitarianism in Victorian England.

(d) "Moll Flanders is a survivor in a world that offers women few choices." Discuss the novel as a critique of the economic and social limitations placed on women in the 18th century.

(e) "*The Distracted Preacher* is as much a story about the clash of social values as it is a romance." Discuss this statement with reference to the character of Lizzy Newberry.

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