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 398, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat
 Kolkata, West Bengal-700125



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2023
Course Name – Science Fiction
Course Code - BEN60114
(Semester VI)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) Recall the term, used for science fiction that emphasizes scientific accuracy.
 - a) Soft science fiction
 - b) Speculative fiction
 - c) Hard Science fiction
 - d) Futuriestic fantasy
- (ii) Identify the historical movement that promoted empirical observation and rational inquiry.
 - a) Romantic movement
 - b) Scientific Revolution
 - c) Futurism
 - d) Modernism
- (iii) Recall the physical nature of Laputa in "Gullivers Travel."
 - a) A floating island
 - b) An underground city
 - c) A mechanical city
 - d) A hidden continent
- (iv) Interpret the Academy's failure to improve Balnibarbi's agriculture in "Gulliver's Travels".
 - a) Lack of funding
 - b) Dependence on foreign aid
 - c) Disconnection between theory and practice
 - d) Natural disaster
- (v) Describe how capitalism contributes to alienation in science-fiction worlds.
 - a) By encouraging emotional fulfilment
 - b) By reducing individuals to labour or data units
 - c) By strengthening community bonds
 - d) By eliminating class differences
- (vi) Identify what is a common theme regarding environmental degradation in capitalist sci-fi.
 - a) Resources are managed sustainably by corporations
 - b) The environment is treated as an infinite resource to be exploited for profit
 - c) Technology always fixes ecological disasters
 - d) The government prevents all pollution
- (vii) State Romanticism reacted against the Enlightenment by valuing which of the following.
 - a) Logic and cold rationality
 - b) Industrialization and urban expansion
 - c) Strict adherence to neoclassical rules
 - d) Intense emotion, nature, and the individual experience

- (viii) "Scientific Romance," a term later used by H.G. Wells, bridges which two concepts? Identify.
- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a) Rationalism and Economics | b) Technology and Empirical Data |
| c) Scientific speculation and Romantic adventure | d) Magic and Religion |
- (ix) Illustrate the exaggerated portrayal of Scientists in pulp fiction primarily reflects.
- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| a) Scientific accuracy | b) Romantic idealism |
| c) Cultural fascination and anxiety about science | d) Religious symbolism |
- (x) Select why is pulp science fiction considered foundational to the genre's evolution.
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| a) It rejected technology | b) It eliminated fantasy |
| c) It created readership, tropes, and markets | d) It replaced literary fiction |
- (xi) Choose what the fragmented narrative structure of the story "The Call of Cthulhu" primarily serves to.
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) Maintain realism and gradual revelation | b) Confuse the reader intentionally |
| c) Emphasise heroism | d) Delay the climax unnecessarily |
- (xii) Choose which character suffers most from uncovering forbidden knowledge in "The Call of Cthulhu".
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| a) Professor Angell | b) Wilcox |
| c) Thurston | d) Johansen |
- (xiii) Determine what Cthulhu's brief awakening suggests in "The Call of Cthulhu".
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| a) Humanity is capable of defeating cosmic forces | b) Cthulhu is morally evil |
| c) Cosmic entities are indifferent to humanity | d) Knowledge leads to salvation |
- (xiv) Identify the Victorian Social division that Wells projects into the future through Eloi and Morlocks in "The Time Machine".
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| a) Rural-urban divide | b) Colonial-native divide |
| c) Gender hierarchy | d) Class division between capitalists and workers |
- (xv) Choose how heliocentrism contributed to speculative imagination in early science fiction
- | | |
|---|--|
| a) It reinforces Earth's central position | b) It is limited to cosmic imagination |
| c) It expanded ideas of space and extraterrestrial life | d) It rejected scientific inquiry |

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Explain the political power Laputa holds over the lands below. (3)
3. Write how the Voyage to Laputa reflects Swift's distrust of experimental science reflect. (3)
4. Describe who is the Time Traveller is, and how he is presented in the opening chapters of the novel. (3)
5. Describe the role of Inspector Legrasse's investigation in advancing the narrative in "The Call of Cthulhu." (3)
6. Analyse how pulp science fiction reflects the values of early 20th-century American mass culture. (3)

OR

Examine the role of editors such as Hugo Gernsback in shaping pulp science fiction as a genre. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

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7. Explain how Swift uses exaggeration in the Voyage to Laputa to critique Enlightenment rationalism. (5)
8. Define science fiction and explain its distinguishing features as a literary genre. (5)
9. Analyze how H.G. Wells uses the division between the Eloi and the Morlocks to critique capitalism in "The Time Machine." (5)
10. Analyze the symbolic significance of the eggs inside the human body in "Bloodchild." (5)
11. Critically assess the significance of humans living on the "Preserve" rather than in open Tlic society in "Bloodchild." (5)
12. Evaluate the role of cults and ritual in maintaining the power of Cthulhu. (5)

OR

Examine the historical and cultural conditions that led to the emergence of Black Speculative Fiction. (5)

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