

ENG436: Writers' Vision of the Future

Mid-semester Exam

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024

1:00 – 3:00pm

Total Marks: 10

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please ONLY answer questions totaling 10 marks. This means you may either answer two questions from Section I or one question from Section II. I will NOT grade any extra answers.

Marks will be deducted for any parts of the answer that are not directly linked to the given question.

Section I

5 Marks Each

Choose the best option from the given choice of texts for the concept given in the question. Then justify your choice by doing the following:

- Explaining clearly your understanding of the given concept
- Analysing the chosen text to show how it fits this understanding of the given concept

DO NOT REFER TO THE TEXT YOU HAVE NOT CHOSEN IN YOUR ANSWER.

- 1) Equality as Equity: '3 Idiots' OR 'Feminist Manifesto'
- 2) Equality as Similarity: 'Hum Dekhenge' OR 'Puvidham School Philosophy'
- 3) Collective, not individual, as the focus of Utopia: 'Preamble' of the Constitution (ONLY – do not look at any other section of the Constitution) OR Arnav's Election Manifesto
- 4) Cooperation, not individual effort, as the basis for achieving Utopia: 'The Friday Everything Changed' OR 'Darmok'
- 5) Utopian Future as Present Possibility: 'Begumpura' OR 'Arrival'

Section II

10 Marks Each

These are in the usual PDA format. Please only use texts discussed in this course to answer these questions.

- 1) Explain the difference between the concept of Utopia as a place and Utopia as a process by doing a comparative analysis of two texts that best exemplify these two different ways of understanding Utopia. Please carefully explain the conceptual difference between these two definitions of utopia before supporting your answer by a comparative textual analysis. Please provide specific textual evidence for all your claims.
- 2) In any utopian text, a critique of the present is the basis for the vision of the future. But does this mean that similarity in critique between two utopian texts means that their utopian visions would be identical? Please give reasons for your answer by doing a comparative analysis of two texts that share a similarity in critique. Please provide specific textual evidence for all your claims. For the purposes of this question, please remember that similarity in critique means that there is similarity in both what aspect of society is being criticised and how / what aspects of it are being criticised.
- 3) As discussed in class, a utopian vision may be based either on a complete rejection of all that is being criticised (total transformation of society) or the idea that what is being criticised in the present can be changed to fit the utopian vision (reformation of current society). Do a comparative analysis of two texts that exemplify these two kinds of utopian vision to explain the difference between these two functions of utopia. Please provide textual evidence for all your claims.