

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**HSGE21-AN INTRODUCTION TO COMIC STUDIES**  
**End Semester Examination | 2025 | Marks: 50 | 3 hours**

**General Instructions:**

- Exceptional research quality responses will earn higher marks.
- Respect word limit.
- Answer all questions.
- Handwriting: write legibly and neatly.

**I. Answer the following questions. Each question carries 05 marks. Word limit: 500-800 words.**

1. During the 1950s the comic book industry was criticized by a psychiatrist named Frederick Wertham who studied negative behavior in young people. He visited juvenile offenders in prisons and found that they read comic books. He then claimed that comic books were responsible for their behavior. What do you think of his logic? Do you think he was correct in blaming comic books? Do people make similar claims today about other forms of media (Netflix/YouTube)? Do you think they are accurate? Why or why not?
2. Describe some essential ways in which comics are unique and distinct from other art forms such as literature, film, and poetry in terms of conveying narrative.
3. Write a short note on Indian comics.
4. Scott McCloud discusses how color in comics can influence mood, perception, and storytelling. How does the use of color shape a reader's emotional response, and how might this differ between realistic and expressive color choices? Can you think of examples where color plays a crucial role in conveying meaning beyond the text?
5. McCloud describes comics as an evolving, experimental medium. With the rise of webcomics and interactive digital storytelling, how do you see the future of comics changing? Do you think the core principles McCloud outlines still apply to digital comics?
6. What is the significance of the Art Spiegelman's decision to portray people of different races and nationalities as different animals in *Maus*? What effect does this have on the understanding and impact of the story?
7. Write a short note on "Prisoner on the Hell Planet" as presented in chapter five of *Maus*.
8. Write a letter to your parents/friend explaining why comics are appropriate for the classroom or worthy of study at the university level.

**II. Fill in the blanks. Each question carries 01 mark.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is founder of *Amar Chitra Katha*.
2. Justin Green's \_\_\_\_\_ is perhaps the first autobiographical work in western comics.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a sign in which the signifier functions by physical connection.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ comprises of two pages where the character and background fills both pages.
5. The comic strip *Little Nemo in Slumberland* was created by \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Interpret the following comics page. Comment on the context, use/lack of color, and symbolism among others. Word limit: 500-800 words. [5 marks]

