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**This unit targets Assessment Objectives AO1 and AO4 and also assesses AO3 and AO5ii.**

**Answer ONE question.**

**1. de BERNIÈRES: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (Minerva or Vintage)**

**Either:**

- (a) 'One of the strengths of de Bernières's writing in *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* is its ability to present catastrophes in terms of the fates of individuals.'

How far do you agree?

You should include in your answer an examination of Chapter 65 '1953' and **at least one** other appropriate passage of your choice.

**Or:**

- (b) 'Dr Iannis's political debates with his communist friends, Kokolios and Stamatis, are presented with humour, but, as the events of the novel reveal, politics is no laughing matter.'

In the light of this opinion, what is your response to the ways in which de Bernières presents political debate in the novel as a whole?

You should refer in your answer to **at least two** appropriate passages of your choice.

**Q1**

**(Total 50 marks)**



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2. **ATWOOD:** *Alias Grace* (Virago)

**Either:**

- (a) ‘In *Alias Grace*, men such as clergymen, lawyers, doctors and writers are shown to be, despite their professional status, as hypocritical and dishonest as non-professionals.’

In the light of this judgement, what is your response to the ways in which Atwood presents hypocrisy and dishonesty?

In your answer, you should include an examination of Chapter 21 and **at least one** other appropriate passage of your choice.

**Or:**

- (b) ‘“Female fiend and temptress” or “unwilling victim”’: Atwood shows how nineteenth century attitudes towards Grace reflected contemporary uncertainty and confusion about the nature of women.’

In the light of this comment, what is your response to Atwood’s presentation of her female characters in *Alias Grace*?

You should refer in your answer to **at least two** female characters, examining **two or more** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q2

(Total 50 marks)

3. **MURDOCH:** *The Bell* (Vintage)

**Either:**

- (a) ‘The failure of what Noel calls “this crackpot community” arises partly from its inner weaknesses and partly from the activities of those who have been injured or rejected by its members.’

In the light of this remark, what is your response to Murdoch’s presentation of the failure of the Imber community?

You should include in your answer an examination of Chapter 22 and **at least one** other appropriate passage of your choice.

**Or:**

- (b) ‘James’s moralistic dismissal of Dora as “what is popularly called a bitch” does her less than justice. Murdoch presents her as an example of how one may discover one’s true self. Morality has nothing to do with it.’

In the light of these opinions, what is your response to Murdoch’s presentation of Dora’s role in the novel as a whole?

You should refer in your answer to **at least two** appropriate passages of your choice.

Q3

(Total 50 marks)

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4. **FORSTER:** *Howards End* (Penguin)

**Either:**

- (a) 'Forster's varied presentation of the worlds of the Schlegels and Wilcoxes in the opening two chapters of *Howards End* is a precise introduction to the social, intellectual and cultural conflicts that are to follow in the rest of the novel.'

How far do you agree?

You should refer in your answer to Chapters I and II and **at least one** other appropriate passage of your choice.

**Or:**

- (b) 'Despite Margaret's favourable evaluation of the Wilcoxes, Forster fails to convince us that what the Wilcoxes stand for is worthwhile.'

In the light of this comment, what is your response to Forster's presentation of what the Wilcoxes stand for?

You should refer in your answer to **at least two** appropriate passages of your choice.

**Q4**

**(Total 50 marks)**

5. **ACHEBE:** *Things Fall Apart* (Heinemann)

**Either:**

- (a) 'One culture's religion is another's superstition.'

In the light of this comment, what is your response to the varied ways in which Achebe presents diverse religious practices and beliefs in *Things Fall Apart*?

You should include in your answer an examination of Chapter Eighteen and **at least one** other appropriate passage of your choice.

**Or:**

- (b) 'Individualism stands in opposition to the dominant values of the clan which, above all, are those of communal life and responsibility.'

In the light of this opinion, examine Achebe's presentation of Okonkwo's father, Unoka, and his eldest son, Nwoye.

You should include in your answer an examination of **at least two** appropriate passages of your choice.

**Q5**

**(Total 50 marks)**





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**TOTAL FOR PAPER: 50 MARKS**

**END**

**Assessment Objectives for Unit 4b (6394/02): Modern Prose:**

**AO1** communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to literary study, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression

**AO4** articulate independent opinions and judgements, informed by different interpretations of literary texts by other readers

**AO3** show detailed understanding of the ways in which writers' choices of form, structure and language shape meanings

**AO5ii** evaluate the significance of cultural, historical and other contextual influences on literary texts and study.

