

## Unit 1: The Modern Novel

- ☆ 1 hour closed book exam
- ☆ Answer one question from a choice of two
- ☆ One question will use an extract from the novel as a starting point

### Key objectives:

- Communication - ability to structure a clear line of argument which is supported by detailed reference to the text
- Knowledge and understanding - close reading of the text and ability to deal with all aspects of the question
- How form, structure and language inform meaning - understanding of the writer's techniques and their effects
- Independent judgements - ability to show personal response which is justified by the text

### Quotations

You are not expected to learn lengthy quotations and will be given no credit for doing so however, the examiners will expect you to be able to embed short quotations into your argument. You will need to select short quotations to learn as part of your revision.

### Sample questions

1. How appropriate is the title of the novel?
2. At the start of the novel, the narrator is presented to the reader as a man who lives in a well-ordered world. Examine the ways in which your responses to this character are shaped throughout the novel.
3. How important are letters to the novel as a whole?
4. How important is this extract from Appendix 1 in the novel as a whole? You should pay attention to both subject matter and style.

*'The victims of de Clerambault patients may endure harassment, stress, physical and sexual assault and even death....and it is not always easy to accept that one of our most valued experiences may merge into psychopathology.'* (p. 242)

5. Remind yourself of this extract from the opening of Chapter 19. What is the importance of the episode in the restaurant to the novel as a whole? You should pay attention to both subject matter and style.

*'I arrived twenty minutes late ... Professor Jocelyn Kale, Clarissa's godfather had been appointed to an honorary position on the Human Genome Project.'* (p. 162)

6. Using the following extract as a starting point, consider the way that Clarissa is presented to the reader throughout the novel.

*'When she steps into the hall, he is waiting for her by the door of his study. He has a wild look about him that she has not seen in some time ... But Joe is pressing on like a man who has seen no other human for a year.'* (p 80 - 81)

7. Remind yourself of the following description of Mrs Logan when Joe goes to Oxford to meet her. What do you think is the importance of this character in the novel?

*'The woman who came to the door was surprised to see me and we looked at each other a full two seconds before I hurriedly reminded her of our arrangement. The eyes that held mine were small and dry, not reddened by grief, but sunk, and glazed by weariness. She looked a long way off, out on her own in unspeakable weather, like a lone Arctic explorer.'* (p 108)