

ROLL NO:



**PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY  
BENGALURU**

**Department of Languages (English)**

**MID-TERM EXAMINATION – AUGUST 2024**

**Odd Semester:** 2023-24

**Course Code:** ENG878

**Course Name:** Nihilism and Cinema

**Department:** English (Languages)

**Date:** 12-08-2024

**Time:** 02.00pm to 03.30pm

**Max Marks:** 50

**Weightage:** 25%

**Instructions:**

- (i) *Read the question properly and answer accordingly.*
  - (ii) *Question paper consists of 3 parts.*
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**PART A (THOUGHT PROVOKING)**

**Answer all the Questions. Each question carries 5 marks. (4Qx 5M= 20M)**

1. Identify and explain two cinematic techniques used in "Sunset Boulevard" that enhance the film's nihilistic themes. (CO:01 BL: Understand)
2. Explain how "Persona" explores the concept of identity. Provide one example from the film. (CO:02 BL: Understand)
3. Discuss the exploration of free will in "A Clockwork Orange" and explain how it relates to the theme of Nihilism. How does Kubrick use the protagonist, Alex, to convey these ideas? (CO:03 BL: Understand)
4. Examine how "Taxi Driver" portrays Travis Bickle's existential crisis. Provide specific scenes or dialogues that highlight his sense of meaninglessness. (CO:03 BL: Understand)

**PART B (PROBLEM SOLVING)**

**Answer all the Questions. Each question carries 10 marks. (3Qx 10M= 30M)**

5. Analyze how "The Seventh Seal" and "Sunset Boulevard" each explore the concept of existential despair. Discuss how the historical and cultural contexts of each film influence their depiction of nihilistic themes. (CO:01 BL: Analyze)
6. Discuss the significance of the relationship between the two main characters in "Persona" and how it reflects Bergman's exploration of identity and meaninglessness. Analyze specific scenes and dialogues to support your argument. (CO:02 BL: Analyze)

7. Analyze how "Synecdoche, New York" explores the themes of the futility of human endeavor and the search for meaning. Support your analysis with specific examples from the film. (CO:03 BL Analyze)