



Victoria University of Bangladesh

Final Examination

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Answer to the question no: 01

Postcolonialism is a cultural, political, and intellectual approach to the study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism, focusing on the ways in which colonial domination has shaped and been represented in literature and culture. It also involves the examination of the ways in which colonized people have resisted and responded to colonialism and its aftermath.

The features of postcolonial literature include:

Critique of colonialism: Postcolonial literature often critiques the negative effects of colonialism, including exploitation, oppression, and cultural domination

Re-examination of history: Postcolonial literature often challenges dominant historical narratives and offers alternative perspectives on historical events.

Re-assertion of cultural identity: Postcolonial literature often seeks to reclaim and celebrate the cultural heritage and identity of colonized societies.

Hybridity and cultural mixing: Postcolonial literature often explores the cultural and linguistic hybridity that results from colonialism and the mixing of cultures.

Decolonization and resistance: Postcolonial literature often deals with themes related to the struggle for independence and resistance against colonialism.

Hybrid identities: Postcolonial literature often explores the fusion of different cultural identities that arise from colonialism and the cultural exchange between colonizer and colonized.

Subversion of colonial discourses: Postcolonial literature often subverts and challenges colonial ideologies and stereotypes.

Re-examination of history: Postcolonial literature often re-examines and re-interprets historical events and figures from a postcolonial perspective.

In the play "The Tempest" by William Shakespeare, there are elements that can be seen as postcolonial. Prospero's desire to return home to Italy and reclaim his position as the rightful Duke of Milan drives the plot of *The Tempest*. However, we don't know about Prospero's history until the second scene of the play. Instead, the play begins by hurtling the audience straight into the action. The first scene opens on a ship in the midst of a storm. By opening with the chaos of the tempest, Shakespeare has drawn on the literary technique of "in medias res," which involves starting a narrative "in the midst of things" and hence without preamble. In doing so, Shakespeare places the audience in the same position as the shipwrecked crew, confused and disoriented on a strange island. The audience doesn't meet Prospero until the second scene, when we learn that he conjured the storm. Knowing that his enemies were aboard a passing ship, Prospero used his training in sorcery to fashion a tempest and cause the ship to wreck on the island. The storm therefore constitutes the inciting incident of the play, setting events into action. The play is set on an island and features a relationship between the colonial power (Prospero, the former Duke of Milan) and the colonized (Caliban, a native of the island). The character of Caliban challenges Prospero's colonial authority and represents resistance against colonialism. The play also explores themes of power, control, and the dehumanization of the colonized. For example, when Caliban says "This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother, which thou tak'st from me," (Act 1, Scene 2, Line 333), he asserts his claim to the island and challenges Prospero's control over it. This can be seen as a metaphor for resistance against colonial domination.