

**October 2025**  
**B.A./B.Sc.**  
**Fifth Semester**  
**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE – 2**  
**ENGLISH**  
*Course Code: END 5.21*  
(Science Fiction & Detective Literature)

*Total Mark: 70*

*Pass Mark: 28*

*Time: 3 hours*

*Answer the following questions.*

**UNIT-I**

1. Much of the Time Traveller's theorising in the story assumes the idea that challenge is what makes man thrive and prosper. Do you agree or disagree with this thesis, and why? 10
2. Why does the Time Traveler think that "the old order was already, in part, reversed"? 4

**UNIT-II**

3. Analyse the depiction of greed and its consequences in *The Sign of Four*, supporting your argument with examples from the text. 10
4. Give a character sketch of Dr. Watson. 4

**UNIT-III**

5. Chandler (*The Big Sleep*) believed that detective fiction could transcend its reputation as mere entertainment, arguing instead that it had the potential to reflect the moral ambiguities and existential struggles of modern life. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer. 10
6. "Their flesh is too much like the flesh of men. And their perfume has the rotten sweetness of a prostitute." Explain. 4

#### UNIT-IV

7. (a) Analyse the characterisation of Samuel Spade in *The Maltese Falcon*. How is Spade's morality and professionalism portrayed? 10

OR

- (b) Examine the themes of trust and betrayal in *The Maltese Falcon*.
8. (a) Explain Spade's relationship with Brigid O'Shaughnessy. 4
- OR
- (b) What is the central object of desire in *The Maltese Falcon*?

#### UNIT-V

9. How does the various disciplines ("Nightfall") contribute their expertise as they face a common threat in the form of the eclipse? 10
10. Define science fiction (Asimov) giving its various features. 4
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