

2020

ENGLISH

( Major )

Paper : 6.2

( Twentieth Century Criticism and Theory )

Full Marks : 60

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks  
for the questions*

1. Give very brief answers/Fill in the blanks/Choose the correct option (any seven) : 1×7=7
- (a) T. S. Eliot in his essay, *Hamlet and His Problems*, gives his famous theory of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (negative capability/objective  
correlative/affective fallacy)
- (b) Which seminal work of Derrida is asserted as the Alpha and the Omega of deconstruction?
- (c) Who coined the term 'new historicism'?
- (d) Name the essay in which Helen Cixous introduced the phrase 'écriture feminine'.
- (e) *Orientalism* (1978) is a major text for the academic field of \_\_\_\_\_ studies.

- (f) Which poem of John Donne is cited by Cleanth Brooks as a 'sufficiently extreme instance of paradox'?
- (g) Which term is employed in Saussurean linguistics to refer to the individual speech utterances?
- (h) Name the scholar who coined the phrase, 'The historicity of the text and the textuality of history'.
- (i) Who wrote *Discipline and Punish* and *Archaeology of Knowledge*?
- (j) According to Bakhtin, the novels of Dostoevsky belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ type of novel.

2. Answer any *four* of the following : 2×4=8

- (a) Give the definition of Eliot's impersonal theory of poetry.
- (b) What is foregrounding? What is its role in the analysis of a literary text?
- (c) What is 'logocentrism'?
- (d) What is the difference between 'signifier' and 'signified'?
- (e) Why does Jonathan Culler define theory as a 'miscellaneous genre'?

3. Answer the following questions (any *three*) :

5×3=15

- (a) How does the emotive use of language differ from its referential or scientific use? Explain in the light of I. A. Richards' views on this matter.
- (b) Write a short note on either (a) Defamiliarization (Victor Shklovsky) or (b) Dissociation of sensibility (T. S. Eliot).
- (c) Write a note on Empson's *Seven Types of Ambiguity*.
- (d) How do the new historicists substantiate the view that history is not merely a context, but a co-text?
- (e) "There is no reading of a work which is not also a rewriting." What does Terry Eagleton mean by this remark in his essay, *What is Literature?*

4. Answer any *three* of the following questions :

10×3=30

- (a) Discuss in detail with reference to at least two representative critics, how new criticism establishes the centrality of the literary text and the necessity of 'close reading'.

Or

What are I. A. Richards' major concepts associated with his psychological approach to art and literature? Discuss.

- (b) Analyze the basic tenets of New Historicism.

Or

Edward Said's *Orientalism* is perhaps one of the most influential texts of the 20th century. Examine Said's views on 'Orientalism' as the starting point in post-colonial studies.

- (c) What, according to Terry Eagleton, are the difficulties involved in having a fixed and specific definition of literature?

Or

Write an illustrative note on Bakhtin's ideas of heteroglossia and polyphony.

- (d) Make an assessment of the contributions of Derrida and Foucault towards the development of post-structuralist thought.

Or

How does Jonathan Culler justify his opinion that theory involves a questioning of the most basic premises of literary study?

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