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BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2022/M.A.(ENG)-2023

Course Name – Approaches to Literature

Course Code - MELS301

(Semester III)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :
 - (i) Choose the year in which Barthes' essay 'The Death of the Author' was published.
 - a) 1968
 - b) 1960
 - c) 1970
 - d) 1980
 - (ii) Judge the statement(s) that match(es) with Barthes' views: 1. A Text is field without the author as its origin. 2. A text is field which has language as its origin. 3. A text does not release a single theological meaning.
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Only 3
 - d) All the three options
 - (iii) Infer the term that Barthes wanted as a replacement for 'literature'.
 - a) Depiction
 - b) Notation
 - c) Writing
 - d) Making
 - (iv) Select from the following the linguist generally associated with the initiation of 'Structuralism' as a movement-
 - a) Roman Jakobson
 - b) Claude Levi-Strauss
 - c) Ferdinand de Saussure
 - d) Roland Barthes
 - (v) In literary studies Structuralism promotes _____. Choose the right answer.
 - a) New interpretation of literary works
 - b) The view that literature is one signifying practice among others
 - c) A system account of literary archetypes
 - d) Unstable structures of systems of signification
 - (vi) Choose the year in which 'Course in General Linguistics' was published.
 - a) 1913
 - b) 1916
 - c) 1922
 - d) 1913
 - (vii) In his essay 'From Work to Text' Roland Barthes says the following about the text: Choose the correct option. I. The Text is singular II. The text can be held in hand. III.

The text is held in language. IV. The text is a methodological field.

- a) I
b) II
c) III
d) III & IV
- (viii) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: Foucault looks at knowledge as a source of power and then into the property of power of propagating new knowledge. Statement II: Foucault looks at systems of knowledge in a historiographic way.
- a) Statement I is True
b) Statement II is True
c) Both statements are true
d) No statement is true
- (ix) Which of the following statement is true in observation of the phenomenon of cultural hegemony? Choose.
- a) It is a system of knowledge propagated to create endless counter narratives
b) It is a democratic system of knowledge creation
c) It is an autocratic system of knowledge creation
d) All of these
- (x) In his renowned work 'Orientalism' Edward Said argues that 'the orient' as portrayed in Western novels, media, and artwork is _____. Identify.
- a) A place prone to liberal democracy and revolutionary feminism
b) An accurate depiction of the modern day Middle East and Asia, meaning that scholars and academics can rely solely on these ancient works
c) Lost in the past, prone to despotic rule, and plagued by 'odd' cultural traditions
d) Too focused on historical facts and accurately portraying the experience of life in the region
- (xi) Who among the following wrote the introduction of 'The Wretched of the Earth'? Select the right answer.
- a) Jean-Paul Sartre
b) Roland Barthes
c) Fredric Jameson
d) Peter Hallward
- (xii) Which of the following statements best analyse Said's critique of the following assertion by Marx: "They cannot represent themselves; they must be represented."
- a) Said points out to the imperialist attitudes of Western intelligentsia
b) Through Marx' assertion Said refers inherent racism of western Enlightenment
c) Both statements are true
d) No statement is true
- (xiii) Which of the following terms does Said use to describe the way the West perceives the East? Select the correct answer.
- a) Evolving
b) Fragmented
c) Monolithic
d) Enlightened
- (xiv) Said's concept of "Orientalism" can best be described as _____. Select the correct answer.
- a) A benign curiosity about the East
b) A historical study of ancient civilizations
c) A system of knowledge that reinforces stereotypes
d) An accurate representation of Eastern societies
- (xv) Select from the following the concept that Foucault introduces to describe the author's function within a text.
- a) The "muse" concept
b) The "intertextuality" concept
c) The "reader-response" concept
d) The "author-function" concept

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Examine the relationship between the audience and the tragedy as outlined in *Poetics*. How does Aristotle believe the audience's experience shapes the effectiveness of a tragedy? (3)

3. Observe the central theme of Plato's "Allegory of the Cave". (3)
4. Discuss "interpretive community" with context of Stanley Fish's "Is there a Text in this Class?" (3)
5. Analyze Jakobson's concept of 'contiguity'. (3)
6. Explain Aristotle's emphasis on the plot as the most critical element of tragedy. How does he define a well-constructed plot? Discuss the significance of unity and complexity in narrative structure. (3)

OR

- Explain briefly how Barthes analyses the idea of 'jouissance' in the essay "From Work to Text". (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Summarize how Foucault critiques the traditional notion of author as the origin of meaning in the essay "What is an Author?" (5)
8. "The colonial world is a Manichean world"- Justify the statement with reference to Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*. (5)
9. Analyse Lyotard's concept of the "incredulity toward meta-narratives." How does this skepticism reflect the shift from modern to postmodern thought? (5)
10. Illustrate the Metaphoric and Metonymic poles of language as discussed in Jakobson's essay "Two Aspects of Language." (5)
11. (5)
How does Fanon explain the psychological impact of violence on colonized people, and how they use violence as a means of liberation? Explain.

12. Consider Aristotle's concept of 'Hamartia' with examples from plays you have read. (5)

OR

- Evaluate Barthes' assertion that the "Text" is a site of infinite meanings. (5)
