



## BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2020/B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2021/B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2022

Course Name – Literary Theory

Course Code - BELS503B

( Semester V )

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) Recall what Judith Butler characterises as an "intelligible gender".

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|--|---|
| a) Genders which destabilise the normative concepts of gender, sex, and sexuality                                  | b) Gender that can be constructed in society through the help of intellectual discussions about the matrix of desire                      |
| c) Genders where the discontinuity and incoherence of personhood are encouraged, maintained and legitimised by law | d) Genders which in some sense institute and maintain relations of coherence and continuity among sex, gender, social practice and desire |

(ii) In discussing the biological data related to motherhood and the differentiation of men and women, name which of the following is not discussed by Simone de Beauvoir?

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|---|--|
| a) Childbirth is the process by which the innate superiority of women and their indisputable role in the perpetuation of the species is established | b) Repeated childbearing might make a woman prematurely old and mishappen and lessen her prospects as an attractive mate       |
| c) Nursing is a tiring service and the mother has to feed the child from her own reserves of vitality even when her body protests against it        | d) Childbirth foregrounds the conflict between individual and society and endows the female body with a "disturbing fragility" |

(iii) Choose the wrong statement.

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|--|---|
| a) Deconstruction is a poststructuralist theory, based largely but not exclusively on the writings of Derrida. | b) Deconstruction arose as a response to structuralism and formalism. |
| c) Both of the above   | d) None of the above  |

(iv) Power held by people with authority is described as:

- a) Political Power  
c) Social Power
- (v) Articulate which literary theory deals with the importance of representation.  
a) Psychoanalytic theory  
c) Postcolonial theory
- (vi) Name the founding father of Marxism.  
a) Friedrich Hayek  
c) Adam Smith
- (vii) Interpret what Judith Butler means by "gender performativity".  
a) The belief that gender is determined by biology  
c) The theory that gender is something one is born with
- (viii) Name the authors of The Communist Manifesto:  
a) Lenin and Stalin  
c) Lenin and Engles
- (ix) Articulate the common thread that runs through all subsets of Reactionary Socialism  
a) they resist the rise of the bourgeoisie and the modern industrial system, without recognizing the historical inevitability of the emergence of the bourgeoisie.  
c) theirs is a specifically nationalist mode of Socialism that emerged in France in opposition to the fragmentation of the extant economic structures then controlled by the artisanal and aristocratic classes
- (x) Observe the response that accounts for the opposition of the Feudal Socialists to the bourgeoisie.  
a) that they were passive and complicit in the emergence of the proletariat, and were not actively and violently countering their insubordination as in trade-union formations or sit-ins.  
c) that they led to the emergence of a revolutionary proletariat that would eventually upend the existing social order.
- (xi) Determine which of these may be said of the tendencies of the Critical-Utopian Socialists  
a) they desire to reform the bourgeois and not antagonise the proletariat for a cohesion of class interests  
c) they desire to look at other forms of capitalist discrepancies apart from class conflict such as wage discrimination, in order to bring forth a comprehensive Socialism
- (xii) Choose the phrase deployed by Louis Althusser in speaking of how social reproduction effects social structures vis-a-vis Ideological State Apparatuses.  
a) "social cohesion"  
c) "structural interlocking"
- (xiii) State how ideological subjection works on reproducing skills of labour power for Althusser  
b) Instrumental Power  
d) Personal Power
- b) Queer theory  
d) Structuralism
- b) Karl Marx  
d) John Locke
- b) The idea that gender is a fixed, unchanging identity  
d) The concept that gender is a social construct enacted through repeated actions
- b) Marx and Lenin  
d) Marx and Engels
- b) they are specifically opposed to the takeover of the modern industries by the proletariat
- d) None of the above
- b) that their own infraction among the various subclasses of the bourgeoisie was a political weakness that was capitalized by the working classes to critique the state of affairs
- d) their opposition was specifically to the emergence of the proletariat, and they were mostly indifferent to the machinations of the bourgeoisie.
- b) they desire to abolish class conflict, without necessarily abolishing the very conditions that ensure class conflict
- d) None of the above
- b) "spatial configuration"  
d) "social temporality"

- a) ensuring the docility of the workers through low wages      b) reproduction of the workers' submission to the established order and capitalist hierarchies etc.
- c) facilitating the production process in an ideologically deficient manner      d) None of the above
- (xiv) Which of these does Barthes judge to be "the only modernity" in "the Death of the Author"?
- a) centralisation of narrative diversity in literature      b) using sociological discourse to develop a new understanding of literature
- c) elimination of authors and authoriality      d) reading literature in conjunction with works of literary criticism, as opposed to the author's biography
- (xv) Infer which literary theory is Georg Lukács associated with:
- a) Structuralism      b) Psychoanalysis
- c) Marxist literary theory      d) Postmodernism

#### Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Explain the distinction enumerated by Judith Butler between Gender and Sex in *Gender Trouble*. (3)
3. Contrast the concept of Instrumental and Influential Power. (3)
4. Discuss the objectives of "The Communist Manifesto." (3)
5. Define structuralism and poststructuralism. (3)
6. Evaluate, following Georg Lukacs, the contribution of realist literature. (3)

OR

Explain Gynocriticism with reference to "Towards a Feminist Poetics." (3)

#### Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. What are the key arguments of Barthes in his 'The Death of the Author'? Explain. (5)
8. Describe how does Saussure illustrate the ideas of sign, signifier and signified. (5)
9. Discuss the idea of Postcolonialism in brief. (5)
10. WORKING MEN OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!-Analyse the agenda of the Book 4 of the Communist Manifesto with reference to the given line. (5)
11. Critique how Butler incriminates the involvement of language in creation of natural gender norms. (5)
12. Write critically the way Gandhi formulates the idea of Indian Nationhood through Hind Swaraj. (5)

OR

Write a critical analysis of "Toward A Feminist Poetics." (5)

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