

the ideological philosophy of Marxism for the general understanding of the common European population. Statement II: The Manifesto, commissioned by the Communist League, was published in 1848 to help the general population of Europe understand the proletarian politics of Communism.

- a) I is false
b) II is false
c) I & II are both false
d) None are false
- (vi) According to Saussure, the basic unit of language is a ____.
- a) Sign
b) Signifier
c) Signified
d) Phoneme
- (vii) Statement I: The ideas of structuralism surpass the linguistic framework and were applied in other fields as well. Statement II: The ideas of Foucault, who stressed that concepts such as 'madness' have social connotations and also Jacques Lacan, who stated that the subconscious was a replica of a system, emphasized the accuracy and validity of Structuralism. Identify the correct combination.
- a) Both I and II are correct and II is a proper explanation of I
b) Both I and II are correct but II is not a proper explanation of I
c) I is correct but II is false
d) Both I and II are false
- (viii) Recall according to Elaine Showalter which of the following is distinctly a concern of gynocriticism?
- a) construct a female framework for analysis of female literature
b) looking back to dissect and foreground the wrongs that have been done in the past against women by establishing a matriarchy
c) freeing ourselves from linear absolutes of male literary history
d) hypothesing a female subculture
- (ix) Statement I: Barthes' notion of the death of the author can be traced back to Eliot's idea of the impersonality of the poet. Statement II: New Criticism also argued that the text had meaning in isolation, separate from the author who produced it. Identify the true statement.
- a) Only I
b) Only II
c) Both I and II
d) None of the above
- (x) Which of the following best describes the Foucauldian notion of an unitary "truth" as it relates to the construction of gender identities in Judith Butler's Gender Trouble?
- a) It works by opening up the possibilities of gender identities where the cultural matrix that shape gender identity does not require the invisibilisation and deliberate erasure of certain other non-normative identities
b) It is produced through regulatory practices that produce coherent identities through a matrix of coherent gender norms
c) It is the result of breaking down the assymetric oppositions between "female" and "masculine" thus dismantling their correlation to attributes of "male" and "female"
d) It is a result of explaining the existence of certain practices of desire that does not follow from or subscribe to the political relation of entailment related to either sex or gender
- (xi) Infer from whom Derrida had derived inspiration for the decentering of the transcendental signified.
- a) Nietzschean critique of metaphysics
b) Freudian critique of self-presence
c) Heideggerean destruction of metaphysics
d) All of the above
- (xii) Apply your knowledge to select which of the following is a reason for Beauvoir to claim that biological differences are immaterial when it comes to discussing the degraded position of women within society?
- a) Biological differences in and of themselves despite being facts cannot suppress women unless they are given a certain meaning where the lack of a particular biological attribute(strength for example) is seen in a derogatory manner. This social construction
b) When examined it is clear that women and men are biologically identical in terms of their strengths and vulnerabilities

by giving meaning is what is responsible for the poor condition of women within society.

- c) It is a fact that men have worked hard to develop physiological strength and hence it is unfair and discriminatory to condemn them for using this strength to exert control over women who are their biological inferiors
- d) Since biological differences between men and women are established facts it is of no use to investigate them further to try and explain why women suffer under patriarchal control
- (xiii) Statement I: Language can be analysed according to two different poles, or axes.
Statement II: Every item of language has a paradigmatic relationship with every other item which can be substituted for it, and a syntagmatic relationship with items which occur within the same construction.
- a) Both I and II are correct and II is a proper explanation of I
- b) Both I and II are correct but II is not a proper explanation of I
- c) I is correct but II is false
- d) Both I and II are false
- (xiv) With reference to Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*, measure why it is impossible to conceive an idea of a normative sexuality that lies outside of the matrix of power?
- a) Since sexuality is always culturally constructed within existing power relations any kind of sexuality cannot be outside the matrix of power from where it germinates
- b) Bi, lesbian, and homosexual identities are destabilising and anarchic forces that nullify the power involved in created of sexuality and hence renders it irrelevant
- c) Since power is in no way connected or relevant to heterosexual and phallic cultural conventions, it is not relevant in our discussions of how sexuality in the modern world is viewed and created
- d) Sexuality is a failed project of criticising or heterosexual hegemony as a successful critique should have been able to undo the oppressive interference of power in discourses related to it
- (xv) Adapt Judith Butler's idea of gender performativity to choose what is revealed when a baby who at birth is labelled as a man and gifted cars and toy weapons as gifts during their birthday?
- a) Parents of the child conform to the biological reality of the baby's sex by giving them presents that they will inately like as a male child
- b) It showcases how babies develop a liking towards certain items at birth and the capitalistic society renders it impossible to find any sense of security by comodifying all aspects of life including desires
- c) It showcases how a label is created for a child by calling them male and then all actions of the parents and caregivers are directed towards conformation to that label and what they see as stereotypical attributes of masculinity. Hence at the time of naming the identity is both created and subsequently repeatedly performed
- d) It showcases how humans are indoctrinated into a materialistic lifestyles by using presents as a gesture of love and concern

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. Examine the notion of sign in Saussurean linguistics. (3)
4. With reference to *The Communist Manifesto*, compile an understanding the statement "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle." (3)

5. Define structuralism and poststructuralism. (3)
6. Compare the differences between feminist criticism and gynocriticism as underscored by Elaine Showalter (3)

OR

Dissect Simone de Beauvoir's attempt to understand, "what is a woman?" through an exploration of biological essentialism that enshrouds our discussions of the varying subject positions of men and women (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Reproduce how Beauvoir claims that biological need and men's dependance on women has not been able to free them or socially liberate them (5)
8. Explain the way Butler frames the problems of universality and the essentialist arguments surrounding the discourse of sexual difference (5)
9. 'Barthes and Derrida are radical thinkers who have revolutionized western way of thinking.' Justify. (5)
10. Discuss the Foucauldian idea of hauntology with reference to the statement "A spectre is haunting Europe—the spectre of communism." (5)
11. Why was the application of the Foucauldian notion of the Power/Knowledge beneficial to Said in his explication of cultural imperialism through a postcolonial lens in *Orientalism*? (5)

OR

Write an essay on Derrida's deconstructionist ideas. (5)

12. "The Orient was almost a European invention, and had been since antiquity 'a place of romance, exotic beings, haunting memories and landscapes, remarkable experiences'" - Explain with reference to Edward Said's *Orientalism*. (5)

OR

With reference to Edward Said's *Orientalism* explicate upon the following statement as an understanding of postcolonialism: (5)

'On a visit to Beirut during the terrible civil war of 1975-1976 a French journalist wrote regretfully of the gutted downtown area that "it had once seemed to belong to . . . the Orient of Chateaubriand and Nerval.'"
