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**BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY**

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Term End Examination 2025-2026**Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2025****Course Name – Emerging Trends of Research in Literary Studies****Course Code - MEN20502****(Semester II)****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) Define the critical approach that emphasizes close reading while isolating literature from historical and social contexts.

a) New Criticism	b) Cultural Studies
c) Posthumanism	d) Post-feminism
- (ii) Recall the theory that questions the stability of meaning, language, and identity.

a) Marxism	b) Poststructuralism
c) New Criticism	d) Humanism
- (iii) Identify the approach that studies literature alongside popular culture and ideology.

a) Formalism	b) Humanism
c) Cultural Studies	d) Structuralism
- (iv) Describe the primary concern of Poststructuralist criticism.

a) Textual unity	b) Stable interpretation
c) Indeterminacy of meaning	d) Canon formation
- (v) Explain how Posthumanism extends earlier critiques of identity in literary studies.

a) By restoring human centrality	b) By rejecting theory
c) By rethinking agency and embodiment	d) By prioritizing form
- (vi) Illustrate the concept of "environmental justice" within a literary analysis.

a) analyzing the rhyme scheme of a poem about flowers	b) Calculating the carbon footprint of the printing press
c) Exploring how a narrative depicts the unequal impact of climate change on marginalized groups	d) writing a biography of a nature poet
- (vii) Assess the significance of focusing on "lived experiences" in Disability Studies.

a) It allows for a medical diagnosis of characters	b) It centers the subjective reality of the individual over societal stereotypes
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- c) It provides statistical data for insurance companies
- d) It proves that disability is purely a metaphor
- (viii) Explain the ethical risk associated with the "representation" of vulnerable communities in research.
- a) It might make the research too long
- b) It risks reinforcing harmful stereotypes or flattening complex identities
- c) It requires too much travel funding
- d) It makes the text difficult to publish
- (ix) Examine the distinction between "referencing" and "plagiarism" in academic writing.
- a) Referencing acknowledges the source; plagiarism hides it
- b) Referencing is optional; plagiarism is mandatory
- c) Referencing is for books; plagiarism is for websites
- d) There is no difference
- (x) Assess the ethical implications of digitizing indigenous oral traditions without community consultation.
- a) It is excellent for open access and has no downsides
- b) It creates a digital backup in case of fire
- c) It constitutes a violation of cultural sovereignty and intellectual property rights
- d) It saves the community money
- (xi) Differentiate between "copyright infringement" and "plagiarism."
- a) Plagiarism is a legal term; copyright is an academic term
- b) Copyright refers to legal ownership; plagiarism refers to the ethical failure to attribute ideas
- c) They mean exactly the same thing
- d) Copyright applies to music; plagiarism applies to books
- (xii) Apply the principle of "Informed Consent" to a research interview. What action must the researcher take before recording?
- a) Start recording secretly
- b) Explain the study's purpose and obtain the participant's voluntary agreement
- c) pay the participant a large sum of money
- d) Tell the participant what to say
- (xiii) Apply the concept of "Post-feminism" to the analysis of a contemporary novel. What would the researcher primarily investigate?
- a) The biological differences between men and women
- b) How the text rethinks gender, agency, and embodiment beyond traditional feminist binaries
- c) The number of female characters in the book
- d) The author's personal life
- (xiv) Apply the concept of "narrowing a topic" to the broad subject of "Nature in Poetry." Which of the following results is the most viable research topic?
- a) "Nature in all World Literature"
- b) "Trees in books"
- c) "Ecological Grief in the Poetry of Wordsworth and Shelley"
- d) "Why flowers are pretty"
- (xv) Differentiate between a "binary" understanding of gender and the "fluid" perspective advocated by Queer Studies.
- a) Binary views gender as fixed and oppositional; fluid views identity as a spectrum and performative
- b) Binary views are modern; fluid views are ancient
- c) Binary views focus on biology; fluid views focus on law
- d) There is no distinction; both view gender as static

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. List the three specific "Post-" paradigms in the sphere of Literary studies that serve as the theoretical foundation for rethinking gender, agency, and embodiment. (3)
3. Discuss how "Medical Humanities" utilizes narratives to understand the experience of illness. (3)
4. Formulate a research hypothesis that connects "Dalit Studies" with "Post-feminism". (3)
5. Illustrate how "algorithmic bias" might distort a literature review conducted exclusively through digital search engines. (3)
6. Assess the role of "ideology" in the production of literature from the perspective of Cultural Studies. (3)

OR

Evaluate the ethical importance of studying "representation" in literature and films for Disability Studies. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Discuss the theoretical transition from New Criticism to Cultural Studies, focusing on how the treatment of "context" differs between the two paradigms. (5)
8. Analyze the concept of the "Posthuman" subject. How does it deconstruct the traditional humanist definition of "Man" as a rational, autonomous being? (5)
9. Differentiate between "Queer Theory" and "Gay and Lesbian Studies." How does the shift in terminology reflect a shift in political scope? (5)
10. Formulate an ethical framework for dealing with "trauma narratives" in literature. How should a researcher balance analytical distance with empathetic witnessing? (5)
11. Explain the strategic function of the "Literature Review" in a research proposal. How does it move beyond a simple summary to establish the "Research Gap"? (5)
12. Analyze the interdependence of the "Hypothesis" and the "Methodology" in a research proposal. How does one dictate the other? (5)

OR

Differentiate between "Primary" and "Secondary" sources in the context of framing a literary argument. How does the researcher's engagement with each differ? (5)

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