



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026
Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2024
Course Name – Literary Theory
Course Code - BEN40204
(Semester IV)

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) Recognise which of the following is categorised by Elaine Showalter as a feminist concern related to the idea of 'woman as a reader'?
- | | |
|---|--|
| a) woman as the producer of textual meaning | b) history, themes and genres of writing produced by women |
| c) problems of female language | d) images and stereotypes of women in literature |
- (ii) Classify according to Elaine Showalter, which of the following categories of feminist criticism was preoccupied with the division of women into stereotypical categories of 'the whore' and 'the angel in the house'?
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| a) Women as mothers | b) Womens as labourers |
| c) Women as readers | d) Women as writers |
- (iii) Identify which of the following statements best defines the difference between a philosophy and a theory.
- | | |
|--|--|
| a) Philosophy is an offshoot of theory | b) Theory is more metaphysical than philosophy |
| c) The applicability of philosophy is more than theory | d) None of these |
- (iv) Geopolitically speaking, Said locates which area in Orientalism while discussing the propagation of western Orientalist discourses?
- | | |
|--|---|
| a) The Indian subcontinent | b) The Orient of the Far East |
| c) The Orient of the Mongolian Steppes | d) The Islamicate lands spanning from North Africa to the Middle East |
- (v) Identify which of the following statement is true in observation of the phenomenon of cultural hegemony.

- a) It is a system of knowledge propagated to create endless counter narratives
 c) It is an autocratic system of knowledge creation
 b) It is a democratic system of knowledge creation
 d) All of these
- (vi) Interpret the basic unit of language according to Saussure:
 a) Sign
 c) Signified
 b) Signifier
 d) Phoneme
- (vii) Choose what is center called by Derrida.
 a) "the structurality of a structure"
 c) freeplay
 b) "transcendental signifier"
 d) None of these
- (viii) With reference to Judith Butler's Gender Trouble, explain 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 is constructed.
 c) Since power is in no way connected to the dominant cultural construction of heterosexuality.
 b) Bi, lesbian, and homosexual identities are irrelevant as they are 'unnatural'.
 d) All the explanations are correct.
- (ix) Choose which of the following statements best analyses Said's critique of the following assertion of Benjamin Disareilly: "The East is a career."
 a) Said refers to the utilization of western academia in creating knowledge about barren cultures
 c) Said refers to the democratic attitude of western orientalist in writing about the Eastern cultures.
 b) Said refers to the East imitating the Western knowledge structures.
 d) Said refers to the utilization of Orientalist discourse into academia and its capitalization
- (x) Identify what power held by people with authority is called.
 a) Political Power
 c) Social Power
 b) Instrumental Power
 d) Personal Power
- (xi) A Hollywood film portrays the East as dangerous while a Western hero restores order. State which of the following best describes the above.
 a) Orientalism
 c) New Historicism
 b) Cultural Relativism
 d) Ecocriticism
- (xii) Interpret the terms "proletariat" and "bourgeoisie" as used in The Communist Manifesto.
 a) Middle-class professionals and Owners of land and capital
 c) Workers who sell their labour and Owners of land and capital
 b) Workers who sell labour and government officials
 d) Middle class professionals and Workers who sell labour
- (xiii) Identify the central idea of Marxism.
 a) Free market capitalism
 c) Religious freedom
 b) Class struggle
 d) Monarchy
- (xiv) Name the founding father of Marxism.
 a) Friedrich Hayek
 c) Adam Smith
 b) Karl Marx
 d) John Locke
- (xv) Determine the relationship between ideology and culture in Marxist theory.
 a) Culture exists outside ideology
 c) Culture rejects political meaning
 b) Culture functions independently of economic relations
 d) Culture helps reproduce dominant class interests

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Group-B
(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Determine the relationship between Power and Gender in literary representation. (3)
3. Briefly describe how Showalter differentiate between idea of women as a reader and women as a writer. (3)
4. Discuss briefly the different waves of feminism. (3)
5. Explain the concept of "Swaraj" as presented in Gandhi's work. (3)
6. Compare between feminist criticism and gynocriticism as underscored by Elaine Showalter. (3)

OR

Explain how Georg Lukacs defines socialist realism. (3)

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Discuss Gramsci's contribution to Marxist theory through his idea of hegemony. (5)
8. Discuss the origin and development of structuralism. (5)
9. Differentiate the Feminist, Feminine, and Female stages of writing according to Elaine Showalter. (5)
10. Summarize the key ideas of the three waves of feminism (5)
11. Write critically the way Gandhi formulates the idea of Indian Nationhood through Hind Swaraj. (5)
12. Analyse the historical context and intellectual movements that Said focuses on in the introduction of "Orientalism". (5)

OR

Critically explicate upon Marx and Engel's *The Communist Manifesto*. (5)

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