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BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2023/M.A.(ENG)-2024

Course Name – Literature of Displacement and Diaspora

Course Code - MELS404B

(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) State what Stuart Hall suggests Armet Francis's photographic work primarily demonstrates.

a) The aesthetic superiority of documentary photography	b) The political failures of postcolonial societies
c) A testimony to the continuing creative power of this conception of identity within the emerging practices of representation.	d) The decline of African traditions in the diaspora
- (ii) "Cultural identity... is a matter of 'becoming' as well as of 'being'" Explain what Stuart Hall implies through the quoted line.

a) A purely individual choice unrelated to social or historical forces	b) A dynamic process shaped by history, change, and representation
c) A biological inheritance shared by all members of a culture	d) A fixed and timeless essence rooted entirely in the past
- (iii) "_____ is the site of the repressed." This is a line from Stuart Hall's essay 'Cultural Identity and Diaspora'. Choose the correct option.

a) Presence Africaine	b) Presence Americaine
c) Presence Europeene	d) Terra Incognita
- (iv) When Stuart Hall states that "The original 'Africa' is no longer there," what does he primarily mean? Infer.

a) Africa cannot be accessed as a pure, unchanged origin because history, displacement, and transformation have altered it	b) Africa has completely disappeared due to colonial destruction
c) African cultures were entirely erased by slavery and colonialism	d) Africa no longer has relevance for diasporic identities

- (v) According to William Safran, which of the following is a key characteristic of a diaspora? Choose the correct option.
- a) Complete assimilation into the host society b) Loss of all cultural ties with the homeland
c) A collective memory or myth about the homeland d) Political control over the homeland
- (vi) Identify what Safran means by the "myth of return" in diasporic communities.
- a) A guaranteed plan to return permanently to the homeland b) A symbolic belief in eventual return that shapes collective identity
c) A historical fact common to all migrant groups d) A rejection of the host country
- (vii) Assess why William Safran argues that not all immigrant communities qualify as diasporas.
- a) Because they lack economic power b) Because they do not share a common religion
c) Because many lack sustained homeland orientation and collective myth d) Because migration is always voluntary
- (viii) In William Safran's theory of diaspora, the "triangular relationship" primarily refer to _____. Select the correct option.
- a) The relationship between diaspora communities, global markets, and migration policies b) The interaction among the diasporic community, the host country, and the homeland
c) The political alliance between three nation-states d) The cultural exchange between religion, language, and ethnicity
- (ix) Identify what is Ashoke studying at MIT.
- a) Literature b) Physics
c) Electrical engineering d) Economics
- (x) Explain why Ashima feels distressed during labour.
- a) Isolation in a foreign country b) Conflict with her husband
c) Conflict with her husband d) Fear of hospitals
- (xi) Manto's portrayal of "mad" inmates in 'Toba Tek Singh' suggests that madness in the story is _____. Express.
- a) Purely medical b) Exaggerated for humour
c) Often indistinguishable from sanity d) Caused by religious extremism alone
- (xii) The setting of "The Dog of Tithwal" is primarily located in _____. Select the correct option.
- a) The plains of Punjab during Partition b) The Kashmir front during an undeclared war
c) A refugee camp near Lahore d) A military cantonment in Rawalpindi
- (xiii) From a postcolonial viewpoint, 'The Dog of Tithwal' reveals borders as _____. Estimate.
- a) Protective mechanisms b) Natural divisions
c) Arbitrary constructs enforced through violence d) Cultural necessities
- (xiv) When Stuart Hall states that "Cultural identities are the points of identification... not an essence but a positioning," he is emphasizing that cultural identity _____. Choose the correct option.
- a) Is a fixed and inherited essence rooted in biological or racial origins b) Exists outside history and representation
c) Is formed through historical, cultural, and political contexts in which subjects locate themselves d) Refers only to personal choice and individual psychology
- (xv) The term 'diaspora' is of _____ origin. Choose the correct option.
- a) Roman b) Hebrew

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c) Greek

d) Latin

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Explain if the novel The Namesake presents diaspora as loss or opportunity. (3)
3. Write a short note on Presence Europeene as mentioned in Stuart Hall's essay " Cultural Identity and Diaspora". (3)
4. Examine the significance of the child's innocence in Jelly. (3)
5. "Some diasporas persist - and their members do not go 'home' - because there is no homeland to which to return". Explain this line in context of William Safran's essay. (3)
6. Stuart Hall brings in Michel Foucault to refer to the internalisation of otherness based on the positionality of an individual. Evaluate. (3)

OR

Briefly evaluate Stuart Hall's deconstruction of Armet Francis' work as a photojournalist. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Evaluate in what ways does the novel 'The Namesake suggest that identity in diaspora is constructed rather than inherited. (5)
8. Evaluate whether Gogol's decision to change his name to Nikhil is an act of liberation or avoidance. (5)
9. Examine the role of memory in shaping both Ashima and Ashoke as characters in The Namesake. (5)
10. Appraise the features of diaspora with reference to William Safran's essay "Diasporas in Modern Societies: Myths of Homeland and Return." (5)
11. Examine how the asylum setting in Toba Tek Singh reflects the political confusion following Partition. (5)
12. Infer across the four stories of Saadat Hasan Manto, how Manto redefines the concept of identity. (5)

OR

Assess how can Safran's criteria of diaspora be applied to see whether the Indian diaspora fully fits his model. (5)
