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BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026

Programme – B.A.(Eng)-Hons-2023

Course Name – Literary Criticism

Course Code - BEN60206

(Semester VI)

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) Identify the correct option: What does the word 'criticism' etymologically mean?

a) Appreciate

b) Judgement

c) Idealise

d) Comment

(ii) Identify the play with which Coleridge compares the opening of *Macbeth* in his lecture.

a) *Hamlet*

b) *Othello*

c) *Romeo and Juliet*

d) *King Lear*

(iii) Determine the major themes in Eliot's essay from your reading of 'Tradition and the Individual Talent'. I: importance of the great body of literary tradition II: the impersonality of the poet III: the concept of dissociation of sensibility

a) Only I

b) I and II

c) I and III

d) I, II and III

(iv) Read the following statements and choose the incorrect one: Statement I: In *Macbeth* the poet's object was to raise the mind at once to the high tragic tone. Statement II: According to Coleridge, the true reason for the first appearance of the witches is to strike the key-note of the whole drama.

a) Only I

b) Only II

c) Both I and II

d) None of these

(v) Infer the incorrect statement with reference to Eliot's essay: Statement I: Throughout the essay, Eliot blames contemporary poets for not being traditional enough and poetry readers for not being critical enough. Statement II: Eliot points out that being critical is as inevitable as breathing, and that it would be beneficial for a reader to put into words the feelings and thoughts they naturally have while reading anything.

a) Only I

b) Only II

c) Both I and II

d) None of these

(vi) Choose which of the following reasons is true for the popularity of *Heart of Darkness* by authored by Joseph Conrad?

- a) Intellectually the novella acted as the bridge between the setting of the Victorian sensibilities in literature and the rise of the Modernist approach
- b) The novella attained a wonderful cartographic guide book status allowing the British/European people to envisage new and far off lands
- c) All of these
- (vii) Identify which of the following best describes Chinua Achebe's attitude to Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.
- a) Apprehensive
- b) Interrogative
- c) Optimistic
- d) None of these
- (viii) Recall which of the following statements best analyses Achebe's critique of representation of the native African language system in *Heart of Darkness*?
- a) Achebe opines that Conrad subverts the native African linguistic system
- b) Both a and b are correct
- c) None of these
- (ix) Identify which of the six elements Aristotle identifies as not crucial to a tragedy.
- a) Character
- b) Plot
- c) Thought
- d) Music
- (x) Infer what does "mimesis" refer to.
- a) The use of symbols in poetry
- b) The imitation of nature in art
- c) The use of rhyme and meter in poetry
- d) The creation of new words in language
- (xi) Recall which of the following terms means discovery or recognition.
- a) Catharsis
- b) Peripeteia
- c) Anagnorisis
- d) Tragic Flaw
- (xii) Name the character with whom Coleridge draws a comparison of Macbeth's character.
- a) Banquo
- b) King Duncan
- c) Lady Macbeth
- d) Macduff
- (xiii) Examine how does Fanon's concept of "the colonized intellectual" in *The Wretched of the Earth* reflect the tensions between adopting colonial culture and maintaining a revolutionary stance.
- a) The intellectual wholly rejects colonial culture and remains connected to the masses.
- b) The intellectual often adopts colonial culture but eventually turns against it during the revolution.
- c) The intellectual never adopts colonial culture and maintains a consistent revolutionary stance
- d) The intellectual fully embraces colonial culture and becomes an ally of the colonizer.
- (xiv) Observe in what way does *The Madwoman in the Attic* reinterpret the concept of "madness" in female characters.
- a) As a tragic flaw inherent in female nature.
- b) As a response to emotional distress caused by unrequited love.
- c) As a symbolic representation of the repression and marginalization of women in a patriarchal society.
- d) As a way to critique mental health practices of the 19th century.
- (xv) Observe how does the concept of "self-division" apply to female characters in the works analyzed by Gilbert and Gubar.
- a) It refers to the characters' struggle to balance professional and personal life.
- b) It illustrates the division between different social classes of women.
- c) It signifies the internal conflict between societal expectations and personal desires.
- d) It focuses on the separation between the public and private spheres.

2. Explain the opinion that Coleridge voices about the witches in his lectures on "Notes on *Macbeth*." (3)
 3. Discuss how the river Congo becomes an anti-thesis to the Thames in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. (3)
 4. Explain omniscient narration. (3)
 5. Define 'Tradition' with close reference to Eliot's Tradition and Individual Talent. (3)
 6. Analyse the difference between 'showing' and 'telling' with examples. (3)
- OR**
- Analyse what Virginia Woolf mean when she states that life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged. (3)

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Summarize Woolf's critique of the Edwardian 'materialist' novelists in Modern Fiction. (5)
 8. Recall Aristotle's definition of tragedy and the tragic hero in Poetics. (5)
 9. Analyse in what ways does Sedgwick challenge the idea of sexuality as a fixed or natural category. (5)
 10. Discuss the significance of the title The Madwoman in the Attic. (5)
 11. Discuss the role Modern Fiction plays as a modernist manifesto. (5)
 12. Coleridge provides a commentary on Lady Macbeth's character in Notes on Macbeth. Justify. (5)
- OR**
- Explain how do Gilbert and Gubar argue that women writers in the 19th century created a "subversive" literature. Provide examples from their analysis. (5)

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