



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2022

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2019/M.A.(ENG)-2021

Course Name – Approaches to Literature

Course Code - MELS301

(Semester III)

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) Speculate which of the following is not true with respect to Agathon's speech in The Symposium?

a) Agathon agrees with Phaedrus that even though Eros is the oldest of the Gods he does not receive his due respect

b) It is structured like an eulogy where the origin of Love, its beauty, and its benefits to humanity are described

c) Agathon's characterisation of Love recalls himself and his own beauty thereby cleverly creating an idea of Love where Love is the loved one(the beloved) and not the lover

d) Agathon's speech differs from Aristophanes' because inspite of being tragic his speech is rife with showiness and superficiality whereas Aristophanes hid a serious message within his comic approach

(ii) Identify the correct statement: Statement I: Hegelian dialectics is premised upon the assumption that Truth is attainable through the Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis model. Statement II: The Thesis-Antithesis-Synthesis model goes against the idea of Aristotelian empiricism

a) I is true

b) II is true

c) Both are true

d) None are true

(iii) Which of the following statements is the proper critique of Structuralist Phonocentrism?

a) Phonocentrism harbours upon the premise of the arbitrary signifier-signified relationship thus giving the idea of meaning a holistic significance

b) Phonocentrism looks to fix meaning thus cutting down upon doubts and variations when looking at the idea of meaning

c) Phonocentrism in fixing the idea of meaning becomes averse to the more liberal ideas of multiplicity and diversity that language should be treated with

d) All of the above

(iv) The transcendental signified allows for the _____.

- a) The interchangeability of signifier and the signified
 c) The multifarious understanding of the signified in a given situation
- (v) Deconstruction tells about _____?
 a) destruction
 c) zero centralization
- (vi) Two of these authors are considered to be most prominent figures during the early years of post-structuralist movement. Identify the pair:
 a) Jacques Derrida and Roland Barthes
 c) Jacques Derrida and Levi Strauss
- (vii) Literary theory is the product or effect of _____?
 a) historical condition
 c) holy books
- (viii) Literary theory is also known as _____?
 a) new criticism
 c) orientalism
- (ix) Recognise who is the narrator of Plato's The Symposium?
 a) Plato uses the perspective of Socrates to frame the narrative
 c) The narrator is an unnamed acquaintance who relates to us the events which he witnessed during the symposium
- (x) Name which of the following assumption is true of Reader-response criticism?
 a) It focuses on foregrounding the primacy of authorial intention, citing the reader merely as a receptacle to contain the intentions of the author woven into the narrative
 c) It focused on denying the New Critical implication that analyses of the formal properties of a literary work result in similar responses and interpretations among all readers
- (xi) Label which of the following is not true of Wolfgang Iser's work in Reader-Response theory?
 a) He adopted a model of transactional Reader-Response where reading essentially involves an exchange of meaning between the author and the reader
 c) He argued that reading is neither a purely subjective nor a purely objective enterprise but it is somewhere in between
- (xii) Which of the following aspects does not distinguish a Socratic dialogue from the other forms of typical Platonic dialogue?
 a) It a systematic dialogue or dialectic conducted between Socrates and and one other person at any one time, this person acts as the interlocutor
 c) In the dialogues Socrates is able to show the interlocutor the way in which truth can in
- b) The proliferation of the signifier to the realm of abstraction
 d) None of the above
- b) centralization
 d) structure
- b) Roland Barthes and Levi Strauss
 d) Roland Barthes and John Searle
- b) structuralism
 d) scientific condition
- b) source
 d) hermeneutics
- b) Phaedrus is the narrator since it is his misgivings about the lack of respect given to Eros that sets off the symposium
 d) The narrator is an omniscient voice who detachedly relates all the happenings surrounding Socrates during the symposium
- b) It focused on highlighting the fact that since a text germinates from a specific socio-historical condition, historical documents and the text proper should be considered as co-texts
 d) It focused on analysing underlying structures and patterns within narratives in an attempt to show how these patterns were universal and tied to the systems from which they emerged
- b) His works were in agreement with Wimsatt and Beardley's notion of "Affective Fallacy" which dismisses emotional relativism as an unwanted mode of critical inquiry
 d) He argued that reading is a temporal and non-linear activity
- b) Through the course of the dialogue Socrates shows the interlocutor that he holds logically inconsistent beliefs, and leads him towards holding more consistent beliefs
 d) In the dialogues Socrates always claims to know the truth of the matters examined also

- principle be found, namely through logical arguments based on sound assumptions
- (xiii) Identify which of the following accurately illustrates the two poles of reading formulated by Wolfgang Iser?
- a) The work of art revolves around two poles, the objective text and the subjective reader
- b) The work of art revolves around two poles, the socio-historical background from which the text emerges and the purely aesthetic realm to which the text belongs
- c) The work of art revolves around two poles, the artistic pole created by the author and the aesthetic pole created by the realisation generated within the reader through their interaction with the text
- d) The work of art revolves around two poles, the ideology and intentions of the author and the limitations of language which frames the text
- (xiv) Infer which of the following accurately sums up the knowledge gap Stanley Fish aimed to fill through his essay "Is There a Text in This Class?"
- a) He challenged the idea of interpretive communities claiming that reading has to be a solitary act that is not dependant on a public and conversational point of view
- b) He challenged the argument that Reader-Response theory is solipsistic and invites anarchy by leaving literature to idiosyncratic interpretations
- c) He tried to create a model of interpretation which focused on the centrality of the reader as an ahistorical and apolitical individual whose sole function was purely logical and objective analysis of a narrative
- d) He argued that any recognition of formal units is independent of the existing interpretative models available to the reader
- (xv) Chart the reason why Eryximachus compares his vocation as a physician with that of the musician?
- a) The work of both the physician and the musician involves maintaining a balance between harmony and chaos, between order and disorder
- b) Like the musician a physician too is involved in entertaining and providing pleasure to the audience
- c) Like the musician, a physician too must be a master of their craft. This expertise is what links them together.
- d) The musician uses their body as a tool to create music while the physician uses their hands to heal.

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Construct a brief account of the development of Reader-Response theory and some of its main concerns (3)
3. Discuss the trope of colonial mimicry with reference to Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*. (3)
4. Comment upon Conrad's representation of the African demographics in Heart of Darkness. Discuss with reference to Chinua Achebe's critique of the same. (3)
5. Define Derridean logocentricism. (3)
6. Discuss the consensus reached by M.H. Abrams about language, text and the reading of the text in his essay "How to Do things with Texts"? (3)

OR

Define Phonocentrism with reference to Saussurean Signifier-Signified relationship. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Critically appraise Fanon's insights on violence with reference to *The Wretched of the Earth*. (5)
8. Correlate how Wolfgang Iser uses a phenomenological approach to establish the theory of transactional reader? (5)
9. With reference to the Works of Wolfgang Iser and Stanley Fish compare the role of the reader in the act of interpretation proposed by both (5)
10. Critically throw light upon the following statement from Chinua Achebe's "An Image of Africa: Racism in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness." (5)

"The eagle-eyed English critic F. R. Leavis³ drew attention long ago to Conrad's "adjectival insistence upon inexpressible and incomprehensible mystery." That insistence must not be dismissed lightly, as many Conrad critics have tended to do, as a mere stylistic flaw; for it raises serious questions of artistic good faith."

11. What is 'sign' according to Derrida? what does he say about 'play' (5)

OR

Describe how Pausanius critiques Phaedrus' idea of Love? (5)

12. With reference to The Symposium sketch how Eryximachus introduces scientific rationale and logic into the idea of Love? (5)

OR

Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* revivitalises the status quo between coloniser and colonised- Elucidate upon this statement with reference to Lacanian psychoanalysis. (5)
