



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023-2024

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2022

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) Choose the correct information regarding the Commonwealth writers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) The supposed writers of this school donot deny that they belong to it. | b) The supposed writers of this school willingly accept that they belong to it. |
| c) The supposed writers of this school vehemently claim that they belong to it. | d) The supposed writers of this school vehemently deny that they belong to it. |

(ii) Which of the following statements can be applied to best determine the socio-cultural significances of diaspora?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) Dispersal from a specific centre to a periphery | b) Idealisation of a collective memory of the space left behind |
| c) Desire for a return | d) All of the above |

(iii) Which of the following options best describes the difference between willing and forced migration?

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) The condition of anxiety associated with the question of a centre to return to | b) The condition of exile and the question of capitalism |
| c) Both of the above | d) None of the above |

(iv) The application of ethnonationalism to diasporic sensibilities can obstruct which of the following poststructural tropes of thought?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a) Right wing nationalistic identity | b) Nationalistic identity as per communal terms |
| c) Transnationalist global identity | d) None of the above |

(v) Urvashi Butalia does not evaluate the effects of the Partition on which of the following people/ communities in her work The Other Side of Silence?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a) The Hindus | b) The Muslims |
| c) The Dalits | d) The Maghrebis |

(vi) Which of the following is a correct appraisal of the homing desire?

- a) Homing desire refers to the unfulfilled desire for return
- b) Homing desire refers to the idealisation of a collective memory of the home left behind into which the migrant recedes for comfort and redemption
- c) Homing desire refers to the desire for home that fuels the return of the migrant back to their strong centre
- d) None of the above
- (vii) Which of the following is a correct analysis of ethnonationalism?
- a) Nationalism as per demographic heritage
- b) Nationalism as per geopolitical boundaries
- c) Both of the above
- d) None of the above
- (viii) List the stages into which Sudesh Mishra divides the times of modernity.
- a) Plantation (Monopolist) and Advanced (Transnational)
- b) Market, Imperial-monopolist, Multinational
- c) Classical period, Postwar period, the 1990s
- d) None of the above
- (ix) "Modernity is ... synonymous with capitalism." Explain the meaning of the quoted sentence.
- a) Modernity and capitalism are two distinct and separate systems that coexist in contemporary society.
- b) Modernity is a cultural and social condition characterized by rapid industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements, while capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership and market-driven production.
- c) Modernity and capitalism are interchangeable terms that refer to the same societal and economic system.
- d) Modernity is a historical period marked by Enlightenment ideals, scientific rationality, and individualism, whereas capitalism is an economic system that emerged during the same period.
- (x) Determine the right answer; The identities of immigrants according to Hall always belongs to .
- a) Nature
- b) Native
- c) Culture
- d) People
- (xi) Select the name of L.P. Hartley's novel as mentioned in Imaginary Homelands:
- a) The Go-Between
- b) The Boat
- c) Past as Foreign
- d) Midnight's Children
- (xii) The term 'diaspora' is of _____ origin. Choose the correct option.
- a) Roman
- b) Hebrew
- c) Greek
- d) Latin
- (xiii) Identify the Greek translation of the Torah. It was to the Jewish experience of exile which was taken in earlier studies 'as the paradigm for both exile and diaspora'.
- a) Za'avah
- b) Septuagint
- c) Sansei
- d) Shikata ga nai
- (xiv) Define 'decalage'.
- a) The gap or misalignment between the experiences and perspectives of diaspora communities and those of the dominant culture
- b) Ruptures in the cultural, social and historical experiences of the diasporic communities as a result of migration, displacement and resettlement.
- c) Experience of holding multiple, often conflicting, identities within one self.
- d) All of them.
- (xv) State the significance of the title 'The Other Side of Silence'.
- a) It represents the aftermath of partition.
- b) It refers to the stories of those who were silenced.
- c) It represents the author's personal experiences.
- d) It refers to the political leaders' silence on partition.

Group-B
(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Discuss the significance of cultural traditions and rituals in "The Namesake". How do these traditions shape the diaspora identity? (3)
3. Negotiate the the concept of centre and periphery with reference to Caryl Phillips' A State of Independence. (3)
4. Define ethnonationalism. (3)
5. Articulate the meaning of erfahrung with reference to Walter Benjamin's works on the flaneur/ flaneuring. (3)
6. Evaluate Urvashi Butalia's feminist approach in Urvashi Butalia's The Other Side of Silence. (3)

OR

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

Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Analyse the diasporic consciousness in Lahiri's "The Namesake". (5)
8. Illustrate the themes of alienation and the past with reference to Imaginary Homelands. (5)
9. With reference to Stuart Hall's essay Cultural Identity & Diaspora analyse the post-structural shift in diaspora. (5)
10. Evaluate how Caryl Phillip's novel A State of Independence can be seen as a critique of late capitalism through the trope of diaspora and return. (5)
11. Discuss the difference between the homing desire and the actual return to the home in terms of a diaspora. Answer with reference to A State of Independence and The Joy Luck Club. (5)
12. How does Mishra engage with the works of Louis Althusser and Arjun Appadurai in his essay? Infer. (5)

OR

Create an account of violence and homelessness with respect to Urvashi Butalia's The Other Side of Silence. (5)
