

M.A. Examination, 2015
Semester – II
English
Paper : Core-IV
(Twentieth Century Literature)
(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer question no. 1 and **any three** from the rest.

1. (a) Explain, with suitable examples, how the modernist era came to be preoccupied with experimentation,
or
(b) Undistorted, direct communication is an impossibility, according to the postmodernist convictions regarding the state of language (and meaning) in the late capitalist era. – Corroborate this statement with examples from postmodernist texts.
2. (a) Comment critically on the narrative technique of John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*.
or
(b) Would you describe Conrad's *Lord Jim* as a proto-modernist text? – Illustrate your answer.
3. (a) Analyse James Joyce's use of epiphanies in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
or
(b) Socio-cultural hybridity presupposes the erasure of singular identities and origins. Analyse with reference to *White Teeth*.
4. (a) Trace the development of Eliot's thoughts concerning the human condition in the poems that you have read.
or
(b) Examine Eliot's views posited in 'Burnt Norton'. Is the title of this quartet indicative of those views?
5. (a) Comment critically on the role played by nature in Dylan Thomas's poems.
or
(b) Ted Hughes drew his poetic material largely from the world of fauna and gave it a bizarre twist. – Discuss.
or
(c) To what extent is Martian poetry a looking back to earlier literary habits and practices?
6. (a) Would you consider *The Dumb Waiter* as an example of the Comedy of Menace? – Justify your answer.
or
(b) Waiting is the theme of the play *Waiting for Godot*. – Discuss.