

**B.A. (Honours) Examination 2016**  
**Semester – V**  
**English**  
**Course: H-11 (Core)**  
**( An Introduction to Literary Theory )**

**(For Regular and Back Candidates)**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Full Marks: 40**

*Questions are of equal value*

**Question no. 1 is compulsory.**

Answer **any three** from the rest of the questions.

1. Analyse any one text of your choice (short story / poem / novel / cinema / TV serial / advertisement / cultural event) taking help from the postulates of **any one** of the theoretical positions taught in your course.
  2. Write an essay on the ‘structuralist’ school of thought in the field of literary criticism.
  3. a) In *Course in General Linguistics* Ferdinand de Saussure writes, “we must clear up the issue or risk reducing language to a simple naming-process.” Explain, with suitable examples from the text, what he means by the statement. 10  
Or  
b) Vladimir Propp, in *Morphology of the Folk-tale*, writes about the twofold quality of a tale: “its amazing multiformity, picturesqueness and color, and on the other hand, its striking uniformity, its repetition.” Discuss with reference to his text.
  4. a) Why does Roland Barthes, in *Mythologies*, call myths ‘a second-order semiological system’? Elucidate.  
Or  
b) In the essay, ‘Structure, Sign and Play’, Jacques Derrida writes, “coherence in contradiction expresses the force of a desire.” Explain the idea with reference to the essay.
  5. a) In his essay, ‘Creative Writer and Daydreaming’, Sigmund Freud observes that the creative writer, in his writing, “creates a world of fantasy in which he invests large amounts of emotion while separating it sharply from reality.” Elucidate his idea.  
Or  
b) What are the basic tenets of Marxist literary criticism. Discuss.
  6. a) Why does Fanon, in *Black Skin, White Masks*, write, “Negroes’ inferiority complex is particularly intensified among the most educated”? Elaborate.  
Or  
b) Why is it more appropriate to use the plural ‘feminisms’ instead of the singular form? Substantiate your answer.
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