

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2018

Semester – V

English

Course: H-11 (Core)

(Introduction to Theory)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Question Number 1 is compulsory.

Answer **any three** from the rest.

1. Select one text (poem/cinema/short story / Facebook-WhatsApp-Twitter / novel / essay / advertisement / television commercial) and analyse it with the tools of **any one** of the theoretical approaches included in your syllabus.
2. a) Why do you think studying ‘theory’ has become an important prerequisite for understanding literature and culture? Elucidate your views.

Or

- b) In *Course in General Linguistics* Saussure observes, “The linguistic sign, as defined, has two primordial characteristics.” Discuss.
3. a) According to Propp “Functions of characters serve as stable, constant elements in a tale, independent of how and by whom they are fulfilled” and “The number of functions known to the fairy tale is limited.” Analyse.

Or

- b) In “Death of the Author” Barthes opines “Writing is the destruction of every voice, of every point of origin. Writing is that neutral, composite, oblique space where our subject slips away...” Explain.
4. a) In “What is an Author?” Foucault writes “... in a civilization like our own there are a certain number of discourses that are endowed with the ‘author-function,’ while others are deprived of it.” Analyse his idea.

Or

- b) In “Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences” Derrida writes, “The concept of centered structure – although it represents coherence itself, the condition of the *episteme* as philosophy or science – is contradictorily coherent.” Explain.

P.T.O.

(2)

5. a) "Chapter 2" of *A Vindication of Rights of Woman* can be read as anticipating the later feminist distinction between sex and gender. Do you agree? Justify.

Or

- b) Comment on the relationship between radical feminism and the rise of feminist literary criticism and theory.
6. Write an essay on Freud's ideas as elucidated in his essay "Creative Writer and Daydreaming."
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