

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019

Third Year Sixth Semester

ENGLISH (HONOURS)

Criticism

Time-Two Hours

Full Marks-30

Answer *any three* questions taking *at least one* from each group. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A

1. Comment on Plato's views on poetry and education as expressed in the *Republic*. Support your answer with reference to the sections that you have studied.
2. Critically discuss Aristotle's treatment of tragic agents in chapters 13 and 14 of the *Poetics*.
3. Of the two branches of medieval literary theory, only the one dealing with interpretation qualifies as true theory. The other comprises merely manuals of figures of speech. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Discuss how Sidney *or* Ben Jonson approaches the question of reconciling creative originality with critical precepts in literature.
5. Do you think that the neoclassical critical theories essentially follow the Enlightenment culture of reason? Give reasons for your answer.
6. Compare and contrast the ideas of the sublime and the beautiful as propagated by Burke and Kant.

Group B

7. In what ways does Coleridge differ from Wordsworth in advancing his theory of poetry? Discuss with illustrations.
8. What are the fundamental principles of Shelley's "A Defence of Poetry"? Elucidate with examples.
9. How far do you consider Matthew Arnold's 'touchstone method' adequate to determine excellence in poetry? Give reasons.
10. "Honest criticism and sensitive appreciation is directed not upon the poet but upon the poetry." Discuss the significance of this statement by T.S. Eliot.
11. "The process which selects one particular sound-sequence to correspond to one particular idea is completely arbitrary." (Saussure). Elucidate.
12. What is Freud's earliest explanation for Hamlet's hesitation and *hasteas* expressed in Freud's letter to Wilhelm Fliess? Do you agree? Give reasons.
13. What does Foucault mean by the term 'episteme'? How do epistemic differences solidify into the gradual ordering and classification of discourses in any given historical era?
14. Postcolonialism has nothing to do with historical temporality; it provides a counter-discourse to colonialist ideas of the non-west. Elaborate.