

**MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019**  
**Second Year, Third Semester**  
**ENGLISH**  
**Literary Theory 2: Romantic to Modern**

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer all questions.  
All questions carry equal marks.

1. (a) How does Nietzsche subvert the Cartesian consciousness in "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense"? How is this significant for modern literary theory?

Or

- (b) Would you agree with Althusser's objections to Gramsci's idea of hegemony? Provide textually supported reasons.

Or

- (c) Compare and contrast the psychologists' understanding of the unconscious with the creative writers' understanding of the unconscious in nineteenth century Europe before Freud.

2. (a) How useful is Bakhtin's idea of the chronotope for literary analysis? Give reasons for your answer.

Or

- (b) What, according to Stuart Hall, are the possible ways of reading a cultural text? Do they help us understand literary works better?

Or

- (c) "Reader-response theory threatens to make a mockery of the fact that there is such a thing as learning to read." Discuss with reference to Stanley Fish.

3. (a) With reference to Greenblatt's essay "Invisible Bullets", discuss the accusation of political conservatism brought against New Historicism as a critical school.

Or

- (b) How is gender deployed as a political category in feminist literary theory?

Or

- (c) Discuss how the term "queer" underwent transitions in meaning to finally enter the realm of sexual identity politics.

Or

- (d) How does Bhabha attempt to blur the boundary between theory and activism? Discuss with reference to "The Commitment to Theory".