

Master of Arts Examination 2018
First Year Second Semester
English
Literary Theory: Classical to Enlightenment

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks

- 1) How does Aristotle's *Poetics* respond to the Platonic anxieties surrounding mimesis in literature?
- 2) Discuss the uses of irony in Horace's *Ars Poetica*.
- 3) Explain after Longinus how sublimity can be achieved in poetry by the right combination of 'natural talent' and an expertise in technicalities of writing as established by great writers of the past. Show how Tagore's 'Tomar asheeme' (In your infiniteness), Mir Taqi Mir's 'Dikhai diye yun' (You appeared so as to unself me herewith) and the fragment of Sappho cited by Longinus approximate the 'sublime' as defined in the text.
- 4) Critically discuss how Sidney approaches the truth value of poetry in *An Apology for Poetry* and what bearing it has on his concept of originality in poetry.
- 5) What are the ways in which early modern writers adapt and develop Aristotelian ideas of a) the unities of drama and b) the relationship between poetic, historical, and philosophical modes of writing? Discuss with reference to the texts studied in class.
- 6) How does Dryden present the debate between the ancients and the moderns in the 'Essay on Dramatick Poesy'? Discuss with close reference to the conversation between Crites and Eugenius.
- 7) How does Lessing's aesthetic theory, as articulated in *Laocoon*, account for imitation between the poetic and plastic arts?
- 8) Comment on the centrality of 'nature' in Schiller's 'naive' versus 'sentimental' binary.