

Master of Arts Examination, 2022
First Year Second Semester
Department of English
Structure, Sign and Play

Time: Two hours

Full marks: 30

Answer *any three* of the following. All questions carry equal marks

1. What is the second general principle of the linguistic sign according to Saussure? Explain its meaning and significance with examples.
2. "There is no single 'true' version of a myth of which all the others are but copies or distortions. Every version belongs to the myth." (Lévi-Strauss) Elucidate.
3. Why does Lacan think that the analytic experience implies the emergence of a truth that cannot be said? Illustrate your answer.
4. Critically comment on Foucault's interpretation of the "frame" in "Las Meninas" with reference to the relevant sections of *The Order of Things*. Why does Lacan disagree with Foucault's interpretation?
5. "I have commented, not in order to render intelligible, but in order to know what the intelligible is." (Barthes) Examine the validity of this remark with reference to Barthes' reading of "Sarrasine" in *S/Z*.
- 6a. "Only under the conditions of law does the work have an existence and a substance, and it becomes 'literature' only at a certain period of the law that regulates problems involving property rights over works, the identity of corpora, the value of signatures, the difference between creating, producing, and reproducing, and so on. Roughly speaking, this law became established between the late seventeenth and early nineteenth centuries in Europe." (Derrida) Annotate.

Or

- 6b. To what extent is the "Exergue" of *Of Grammatology* self-contradictory? Give textually supported reasons for your answer.