

Master of Arts Examination, 2022
Second Year Fourth Semester
Department of English

The Idea of the Modern 3: Colonial and Postcolonial Modernities

Time: Two hours

Full marks:30

Answer *any two* questions. All questions carry equal marks [15x2]

1. Can subaltern pasts challenge the disciplinary limits of history, and if so, how? Discuss with close reference to “Minority Histories, Subaltern Pasts.”
2. Critically analyse Arif Dirlik’s Marxist critique of the institutionalization of postcolonial studies in the West in ‘The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism.’
3. “Temsula Ao’s writing demonstrates her passion for (auto)ethnography and her love for storytelling, even when she deals with the traumatic recent past of the Ao Naga community.” Elaborate.
4. Would you agree with the description of *Shame* as a “feminist fairytale”? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Younger Dalit women writers like Meena Kandasamy are going beyond ‘giving testimony’ to ‘talking back’ in more assertive ways. Elaborate with reference to poems that you have read.
6. Discuss the ways in which Jean Rhys’s white Creole identity brings a unique perspective to her postcolonial rewriting of *Jane Eyre*.
7. Critically analyse either the Marxist or the feminist sections of Gayatri C. Spivak’s essay ‘Can the Subaltern Speak?’
8. Examine the ways in which the Native American writers that you have read develop their unique vision of an Indigenous cultural modernity that cannot be assimilated within other postcolonial modernities.
9. Discuss the methods by which multiple histories (including mythic histories) of the Narmada river and its surroundings are presented by Orijit Sen, with close reference to *River of Stories*.