

Ex/ENG/PG/3.2/2024

MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2024

(Second Year, First Semester)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

[Literary Theory–II (Core)]

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. Give an overview of the rise of Theory in literary studies in the 20th century, with special attention to the major deficiencies of Theory.
2. What are the benefits of emphasizing “affect” in literary theory and literary criticism? Discuss with reference to the tenets of “reparative reading”.
3. Discuss how Coleridge’s *Biographia Literaria* reacts to Wordsworth’s concept of poetry.
4. Critically comment on Arnold’s concepts of “culture” and how he connects literature with them.

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[Turn Over]

(2)

5. (a) In *The German Ideology*, Karl Marx writes, “The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas...” Do you think this statement holds true today? Substantiate your argument using the Marxist concepts of ideology, dialectical materialism, and historical materialism.

(OR)

- (b) What is the Leninist concept of the Revolutionary Vanguard Party? Use the critical concepts put forth by Antonio Gramsci, the Frankfurt School, and Raymond Williams to explain the importance of culture within the vanguard.

GROUP—B

6. Distinguish between Bakhtin’s concepts of polyphony and heteroglossia, citing relevant examples.
7. Discuss how Kristeva, Irigaray, and Cixous explore the link between body and language as a central premise of their feminist theory.
8. Is the suspicion towards humanism an exclusively 21st-century phenomenon? Discuss with reference to the history of humanist thought.
9. Discuss, with examples, how the intersectionality between Queer Theory and Disability Studies is helpful for the reading of literary texts.

(3)

10. Discuss, with detailed reference to their theoretical predecessors, how New Historicism differs from Cultural Materialism.
11. In what ways can Romantic literature be read through an ecocritical lens? Validate your answer with suitable examples.

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