

University Centre for Distance Learning (UCDL)

Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa

(From the Academic Session 2016-17)

M.A. (Final) English

Paper V1 – Literary Criticism and Theory (EN56)

Assignment- 1st

Maximum Marks - 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss Aristotle's concept of Ideal tragic hero as propounded in Poetics.
2. Write a detailed note on Aristotle's concept of tragedy.
3. How does Johnson defend Shakespeare's use of two unities instead of three?
4. Bring out Samuel Johnson's major ideas on Shakespeare as expressed in his Preface to Shakespeare.
5. Discuss Wordsworth's Preface to Lyrical Ballads as an epoch-making document.
6. Describe Wordsworth's concept of poetry, poet and poetic diction.
7. Discuss Coleridge's views on fancy and imagination.
8. Discuss Biographia Literaria as a statement of Coleridge's philosophical views.

Assignment- 2nd

Maximum Marks – 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss in detail Shelley's conception of the nature and function of poetry.
2. Defend Shelley's conclusive remark that "poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world".
3. Discuss I A Richards's major views as expressed in his book Principles of Literary Criticism.
4. Discuss I A Richard's concept of "Two Uses of Language".
5. Do you agree to Ronald Barthes's views of separating the text from its creator? Give suitable reasons.
6. Critically examine the main arguments of Barthes in his essay "The Death of the Author".
7. Conceptualize Marxism and Marxist criticism.
8. In "The Deconstructive Angel", how does Abrams defend the ability of traditional historic criticism to discover what literary works might have meant to their contemporaries?

Paper VII – American Literature (EN57)

Assignment- 1st

Maximum Marks - 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss Walt Whitman as a Democratic poet.
2. Critically evaluate Whitman's poem "When Lilacs last in the Dooryard bloomed".
3. Discuss the major themes in the poetry of Emily Dickinson.
4. Attempt a critical appreciation of the poem "Because I could not stop for Death" by Emily Dickinson.
5. Discuss Robert frost as a nature poet.
6. Discuss Frost style as a poet with reference to the prescribed poems.
7. Discuss The Glass Menagerie as a memory play.
8. Death of a Salesman is a play about the failure of the American Dream. Discuss in detail.

Assignment- 2nd

Maximum Marks – 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss major dramatic techniques used by the dramatist in Death of a Salesman.
2. Comment on the narrative style and structure of the novel Arms and the Man by Hemingway.
3. Discuss the theme of love and war in Hemingway's Arms and the Man.
4. Discuss the Great Gatsby as a social document.
5. Attempt a detailed note on the use of symbols in the novel The Great Gatsby.
6. Comment on the narrative style of Faulkner in Light in August.
7. Discuss The Bluest Eye as the tragedy of a poor black girl child burdened by white sense of beauty and happiness.
8. Write short notes on the following topics:
 - (i) The Portrait of a Lady
 - (ii) Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

Paper VIII – Indian Literature in English (EN58)

Assignment- 1st

Maximum Marks - 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss the early Indian writings with special focus on Henry Derozio.
2. Discuss the literary contribution of Bankim Chander Chatterjee to Indian English literature.
3. Sum up the views of Swami Vivekanand as expressed at the Chicago Convention of world religions.
4. Comment on observation made by Pt. Nehru in his autobiography about the coming of Gandhi.
5. Comment on the narrative style of Narayan in his short story 'An Astrologer's Day'.
6. What impression do you form of Ruskin Bond as a writer through his story 'An Island of Trees'?
7. Discuss the silent features of the poetry of Nissim Ezekiel.
8. Comment on the theme of gender discrimination as presented in Dattani's Tara.

Assignment- 2nd

Maximum Marks – 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

9. Attempt a pen Portrayal of Bakha in Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand.
10. Comment on the narrative style of Raja Rao in Kanthapura.
11. Discuss Kanthapura as a Gandhian epic.
12. Discuss Desai's Clear Light of the Day as a psychological study of a woman. .
13. Comment on the use of motifs and symbols in the novel Clear light of the Day.
14. Comment on Rushdie's treatment of history in the novel Midnight's Children.
15. Discuss the use of magic realism in the novel Midnight's Children.
16. Write short notes on the following topics:
 - (i) The Guide by R.K. Narayan
 - (ii) The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian

Paper IX – British Literature in 20th Century (EN59)

Assignment- 1st

Maximum Marks - 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss the theme of disintegration and degeneration in the poem The Waste Land by T S Eliot.
2. Comment on the use of myths in the poem The Waste Land.
3. Discuss Dylan Thomas as a modern poet.
4. Critically analyse the poem 'Fern Hill'.
5. Discuss Philip Larkin as a movement poet.
6. Critically analyse the poem 'Church Going' by Philip Larkin.
7. Comment on the title of the play Waiting for Godot.
8. Discuss Pinter's The Birthday Party as a comedy of menace.

Assignment- 2nd

Maximum Marks – 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Comment on the autobiographical elements in the novel Sons and Lovers.
2. Discuss the concept of Oedipus complex in Sons and Lovers.
3. Discuss the thematic concerns in the novel Heart of darkness by Joseph Conrad.
4. Draw a character sketch of Kurtz in the novel Heart of Darkness.
5. Discuss Brave New World as a dystopian novel.
6. Comment on the theme of loss of human individuality in the novel Brave New World by Aldous Huxley.
7. Discuss A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man as a semiautobiographical novel.
8. Write short notes on the following topics:
 - (i) Angry Young Man
 - (ii) Mrs. Dalloway by Virginia Woolf

Paper X – Literature and Gender (EN61)

Assignment- 1st

Maximum Marks - 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss Jane Eyre as a feminist text.
2. Trace the growth of Jane Eyre's self in the eponymous novel.
3. Critically analyse the poems of Sylvia Plath as an expression of the agonised soul of a woman.
4. Discuss Sylvia Plath as a confessional poet.
5. Give a pen portrait of Celie in *The Color Purple*.
6. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker deals with the triple marginalization of black woman. Discuss.
7. What are the issues related to woman taken up by Atwood in *Surfacing*?
8. Discuss *Surfacing* as a Post-colonial text.

Assignment- 2nd

Maximum Marks – 10

Note: Attempt five questions in all. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss Mary Wollstonecraft as an early feminist voice.
2. Comment on the reflections of Mary Wollstonecraft on the condition of the woman with special reference to *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
3. Discuss the contribution of Virginia Woolf to the feminist philosophy.
4. Discuss Virginia Woolf's ideas as expressed in her seminal work *A Room of One's Own*.
5. Sum up Simone de Beauvoir's contribution to feminist existentialism.
6. Discuss Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* as an investigation into the reasons why woman is considered the second sex.
7. Discuss Elaine Showalter's *Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness* as an effort at theorizing literary criticism.
9. Write short notes on the following topics:
 - (i) *Ecriture Feminism*
 - (ii) *Sexual Politics* by Kate Millett