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Reg. No. :

Name :

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, September 2022

English Language and Literature

Core Course

EL 224 : CRITICAL STUDIES - I

(2017 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

- I. Answer any **five** of the following in not more than **50** words.
1. Structural Anthropology.
 2. Bakhtin's concept of Polyphony.
 3. Concept of the Rhizome.
 4. Define two major mechanisms Althusser mentions for insuring that people behave according to the rules of the State.
 5. What is displacement in psychology?
 6. écriture feminine.
 7. Cultural hegemony.
 8. Saussure's definition of language and its basic components.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

P.T.O.

II. Write short notes on any **four** of the following in about **150** words.

9. Readerly and writerly texts.

10. The idea of Discourse

11. Impact of 'mass culture' in Frankfurt School of Literary Theory.

12. Comment on Reality Principle

13. Write a brief note on Gynocriticism.

14. Why must women write, and how do they write differently, according to Cixous?

15. Explain The Mirror Stage.

16. Why does Marx say that capitalist system alienates man from himself?

(4 × 5 = 20 Marks)

III. Answer any **three** in not more than **500** words choosing **one** from each section.

SECTION A

17. How did Claude Levi Strauss show that culture is a system with underlying structures that are common to all societies regardless of their differences?

18. Critically examine Derrida's dictum, "There is nothing outside of the text".

19. Which are the key elements of personality according to Sigmund Freud? Explain how they work together to create complex human behaviours.

SECTION B

20. What role does linguistic structure play within the totality of language?

21. Marx looked forward to a society of genuine equality in which economic power was not in the hands of a privileged minority. Elucidate.

22. How does Helene Cixous reaffirm that a woman can write from a position that no man can have?

SECTION C

23. Attempt a theoretical reading of the following using any one of the theoretical premises prescribed for study:

Let each receive what each produces,
for each shall contribute what he breed,
Fear not the exploiters' abuses,
For all shall receive their every need!
let labour belong to those who toil,
the workers need not plead,
the working class will till their own soil,
For all shall receive their every need!

Let the working class sow their own yield,
let them take up arms and fight,
let the exploiters break their shield,
Workingmen of all countries, unite!
The tyrants' hour is done,
now is the time, now is your right,
for the final victory the workers have won,
Workingmen of all countries, unite!

24. When Unoka died he had taken no title at all and he was heavily in debt. Any wonder then that his son Okonkwo was ashamed of him? Fortunately, among these people a man was judged according to his worth and not according to the worth of his father. Okonkwo was clearly cut out for great things. He was still young but he had won fame as the greatest wrestler in the nine villages. He was a wealthy farmer and had two barns full of yams, and had just married his third wife. To crown it all he had taken two titles and had shown incredible prowess in two inter-tribal wars. And so although Okonkwo was still young, he was already one of the greatest men of his time. Age was respected among his people, but achievement was revered. As the elders said, if a child washed his hands he could eat with kings. Okonkwo had clearly washed his hands and so he ate with kings and elders. And that was how he came to look after the doomed lad who was sacrificed to the village of Umuofia by their neighbours to avoid war and bloodshed. The ill-fated lad was called Ikemefuna.

25. "Look, you can't let me down like this, mother. Do you want to spoil the whole thing? If the Sahib is pleased he'll give me a raise."

Mother was silent for a minute. Then suddenly she said:"Will he give you a lift in the office? Will he? Did he say so?"

"He did not say anything. But didn't you see how pleased he was with me? He said when you start making the phulkari he'll personally come and watch it being made. If the boss is pleased, I may get an even higher post. I may become a big official."

Her complexion started changing and gradually her wrinkled face was suffused with joy.

"So you are going to get a lift in the office son."

"It's not so easy, mother. You don't understand. If only I could please the boss.... There are others too, all wanting to get promoted. It's all a rat-race, mother. But I'll have a better chance."

"In that case I'll make one for him. I'll. . . I'll somehow manage it, son." Silently she prayed for her son.

"Now go to sleep mother," Mr. Shamnath said as he turned towards the door.

(3 × 15 = 45 Marks)