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Reg. No. :

Name :

Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, August 2025

English Language and Literature

EL 524 : CRITICAL STUDIES I

(2022 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any five of the following questions in about 50 words:

1. What is Intentional Fallacy?
2. What is a Freudian slip?
3. What is Historiography?
4. What is the Mirror Stage in Lacanian psychoanalysis?
5. What is simulacra?
6. Discuss the panopticon.
7. What is différance?
8. Define Langue and parole.

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

II. Answer any five of the following questions in about 100 words.

9. The relationship between language and the unconscious in *The Insistence of the Letter in the Unconscious*.
10. What does Derrida mean when he says that "the center is not the center"?

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11. Intertextuality.
 12. The structure of the psyche according to Freud.
 13. Cultural materialism.
 14. Victor Shklovsky's concept of 'defamiliarization' in "Art as Technique".
 15. Historicity of Texts.
 16. The significance of "the system of language" in Saussure's theory.
- (5 × 5 = 25 Marks)**

III. Answer any **two** of the following questions in about **300** words choosing one from each group.

Group A

17. Examine how Raymond Williams critiques traditional Marxist approaches to culture in the "Introduction" to *Marxism and Literature*.
18. Critically examine Michel Foucault's concept of discourse as presented in the "Introduction" to *The Archaeology of Knowledge*.
19. Examine the key principles of psychoanalysis as developed by Sigmund Freud and later expanded by Jacques Lacan.

Group B

20. Elaborate the major concepts of post-structuralism with reference to key thinkers like Jacques Derrida, and explain how they challenge the foundational ideas of structuralism and Western metaphysics.
21. Discuss how the Marxist perspectives reshape our understanding of literature's role in reflecting and resisting dominant social structures?
22. Critically assess the strengths and limitations of Russian Formalism in comparison to other literary theories such as Structuralism and New Criticism.

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)



IV. Critically analyse any one of the following passages in about 150 words using any critical theory you have studied.

23. 'I am a man who has risen from the darkness. I have broken the chains of servitude, the shackles of poverty. I have become something else. Something new. I have crossed the line of darkness that divides a servant from a master. a worker from a capitalist, a man who does not own his own soul from a man who does. The story of my rise is a story of crime. The crime of rising.

I don't care for anything that has happened to me before. I am the new man of India. I am the one who has crossed the line. I was born in a village that looked as if it had been forsaken by time itself. a place of mud houses and black, sticky water. My family, the Halwais, were caught in a cycle of poverty that seemed unbreakable. But then I got a job, and that job was my ticket to something else.

The job was working for Mr. Ashok, a man who was not poor, not like me. He was rich, and that made him powerful. I worked for him, and then I realized: the rich never work. They hire others to do it for them. The rich have a different kind of life. They get rich by exploiting others, by living off the labor of men like me."

24. In the depths where shadows creep,

Beyond the mind's quiet sleep,

Lies a realm we rarely see,

Where thoughts are bound, yet roam free.

Whispers linger, soft but loud,

In the corners of the cloud—

Memories buried, longing to rise,

Masked beneath the waking skies.



Desires hidden, locked away,
Tugging at the light of day,
The id speaks in silent screams,
Chasing fleeting, forgotten dreams.

The ego stands with steady hand,
Keeping chaos from the land,
But the superego calls from high,
'Control yourself, don't ask why.'

Yet beneath all this careful mask.
Unconscious truths in shadows bask,
A dream, a wish, a secret kept,
A story untold, a tear not wept.

The mind's great battle, ever fought,
Between what's said and what's thought,
In silence. the psyche's deepest fears—
The price of years, the weight of tears.

25. "The historian's task is not to find the 'truth' in the sense of a correspondence between words and things. It is to make explicit the practices that produce certain statements and to reveal their conditions of existence. The historian must examine the way these statements become possible within a given period and a given system of knowledge. Truth is not the form of correspondence between thought and reality; it is the system of rules by which certain practices are accepted as knowledge. What is important is not the content of truth but the conditions that make truth possible. History is not the search for truths, but the exploration of the practices that enable the construction of these truths."

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

