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V – 5310

Reg. No. :

Name :

Fourth Semester M.A. Degree Examination, June 2025

English Language and Literature

EL 544.5 – THEORIZING SEXUALITIES

(2022 Admission Onwards)

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

- I. Answer any five of the following questions in about 50 words.
1. Differentiate between biological sex and gender identity.
2. Describe the concept of 'Radha Bhaav' in Bhakti tradition.
3. Explain the role of the Sufi tradition in viewing God and the believer.
4. Summarize the main themes in Adrienne Rich's poem "Diving into the Wreck".
5. What is the significance of emasculation in classical mythology?
6. How is the protagonist's sexual identity explored in "Rite of Passage" by Manoj Nair?
7. What does Nawab Sahab fear for in "The Quilt."?
8. Why does Emily Dickinson use the metaphor of pearls in her poem "Her Breast is Fit for Pearls?"

(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)

P.T.O.



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

9. Discuss the feminine features in the figure of Jesus.
10. Explain the societal issues faced by homosexuals as depicted in "The Lesbian" by Simone de Beauvoir.
11. How does Judith Butler theorize the performativity of gender in "Bodies That Matter"?
12. Describe the conservative society's reaction to marginalized sexual communities in "Cinnamon Gardens" by Shyam Selvadurai.
13. Ambivalence in *Song of Songs*.
14. Discuss the portrayal of identity crisis in Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story."
15. How does Whitman's experience as a civil war nurse affects his sexually radical work?
16. How Adrienne Rich's poem portray historical oppression and erasure of women?

(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 Adichie's critique of colonial violence.
18. Identify and elaborate on the primary challenges faced by social workers in MSM communities within third-world countries, as discussed by Mukul Kesavan.
19. Explain the various ways in which the colonial encounter resulted in the masculinization of eastern countries.



GROUP B

20. Walking as a form of protest against discrimination and exclusion has a long history in India. Elucidate this with reference to 'Walking the Walk.'
21. Explain how *The Zoo Story* prompts serious questions about mental health.
22. Critically examine Butler's argument that gender is a set of repeated acts within a highly rigid regulatory frame".

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

GROUP C

IV. Answer any **one** of the following questions in about **150** words.

23. Comment on Annamarie Jagose's efforts for the political and academic appropriation of the term queer in the essay "Theorising Same-Sex Desire".
24. Enumerate the sexological types in "*Sexuality: The New Critical Idiom Series*"?
25. Present the main argument in the given passage in no more than two sentences and attempt a one-page critical note on the passage.

"The confession was, and still remains, the general standard governing the production of the true discourse on sex. It has undergone a considerable transformation, however. For a long time, it remained firmly entrenched in the practice of penance. But with the rise of Protestantism, the Counter Reformation, eighteenth-century pedagogy, and nineteenth century medicine, it gradually lost its ritualistic and exclusive localization; it spread; it has been employed in a whole series of relationships: children and parents, students and educators, patients and psychiatrists, delinquents and experts. The motivations and effects it is expected to produce have varied, as have the forms it has taken: interrogations, consultations, autobiographical narratives, letters; they have been recorded,



transcribed, assembled into dossiers, published and commented on. But more important, the confession lends itself, if not to other domains, at least to new Ways of exploring the existing ones. It is no longer a question simply of saying what was done-the sexual act-and how it was done; but of reconstructing, in and around the act, the thoughts that recapitulated it, the obsessions that accompanied it, the images, desires, modulations, and quality of the pleasure that animated it. For the first time no doubt, a society has taken upon itself to solicit and hear the imparting of individual pleasures." (Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, 63)

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

