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6 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 1 (H/NH)

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(May)

ENGLISH

(Discipline Specific Elective)

(For Honours and Non-Honours)

Paper : DSE-1

(Literary Theory)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

(Marxism)

1. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 15

- (a) Critically discuss Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony. How is his concept different from the classical Marxist concept of subordination of the working class/proletariat? Elucidate.

(2)

(b) Examine Althusser's critique of Capitalism and offer a detailed analysis of his theory of 'capitalist base' and 'working class superstructure'.

(c) What are the ideological apparatuses of State and how do they function to dominant ideologies? Discuss.

2. Answer briefly any *one* of the following questions :

5

(a) Attempt a short note on Gramsci's concept of the 'organic intellectual'.

(b) What is the relation of ideology and production?

(c) What is 'interpellation' according to Althusser? Explain briefly.

UNIT—II

(**Feminism**)

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 15

(a) What were the six grounds on which Showalter's book, *A Literature of Their Own* was criticized by feminist scholars? Enlist her responses/justifications to the same.

7+8=15

- (b) Discuss critically Showalter's thematic and methodological approaches to identify a distinct female literary tradition.
- (c) Examine/Analyze Irigaray's views on commodification of women—the 'goods' to be exchanged and enslaved.

Or

Summarise Irigaray's ideas on homosexuality and its social repression and rejection.

4. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 5

- (a) Briefly explain Showalter's concept of 'gynocriticism'.
- (b) What are the three phases of writing identified by Showalter in the works of British women novelists from Jane Austen to Doris Lessing?
- (c) Elaborate on the way forward suggested/indicated by Irigaray for women to counter domination and commodification.

UNIT—III

(Post-structuralism)

5. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 15

(a) Critically discuss the concepts of structure, sign and play from your reading of Derrida's essay prescribed for study.

(b) Discuss Derrida's thoughts on Bricolage in the light of the G. Genette's statement that the analysis of Bricolage could 'be applied almost word for word' to criticism, and especially to literary criticism.

(c) "(Foucault's) work marks a radical departure from previous modes of conceiving power." Elucidate from your reading of Foucault's essay, *Truth and Power*.

6. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 5

(a) Write short note on Ethnology and Ethnocentrism.

- (b) What is 'freeplay'? Elaborate.
- (c) Foucault deconstructs the notion of 'universal truth' to assert that truth is 'constructed' and contextual. Briefly explain.

Or

Attempt a short note on Foucault's ideas on the evolution of the 'universal intellectual' into the 'specific intellectual'.

UNIT—IV

(**Post-Colonial Studies**)

7. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 15

- (a) Discuss Gandhiji's critique of the English education system imposed as a colonial strategy of ideological imperialism.

Or

Discuss in detail Gandhiji's ideas on experiments in education and his vision of 'Nayi Talim' or new education.

- (b) Examine Ahmad as a Marxist post-colonial critic with specific reference to the prescribed essay.

Or

Critically discuss Ahmad's position as a literary critic in view of his rejection of western notions of a homogenous 'Indian' literary consciousness and enlist his counterpoints validating his standpoint.

- (c) "The West and East were to be cultural distinctions, differences in civilizations or lack of it." Examine Said's critique of orientalism in the light of the quoted comment.

8. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 5

- (a) Explain briefly the significance of *Satyagraha* as a unique concept of revolution.
- (b) Attempt a short note on Gandhiji's view on Adult Education/Women's Education.

- (c) Briefly discuss Ahmed's views on interrelated, comparative approach in studying 'Indian English'.
- (d) Show your acquaintance with Edward Said's views on ethnocentrism.
