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JNUEE: Question Papers (2010-2012) Rs.10/-

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2012

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGP (135)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

Question No. 1 is compulsory and is worth 30 marks. Answer **any two** other questions, which carry 20 marks each

Make sure you clearly indicate which question and sub-section you attempt

1. (a) "While the quantity of research publications in English Studies is growing in India, the quality is actually decreasing." Discuss this statement, providing examples and reasons to substantiate your argument.

Or

- (b) Imagine that you have just completed your Ph.D. in English. Your first job is in a college in small town in India. You have to teach *one* of the following texts to first year undergraduates :

- (i) Book Two of Milton's *Paradise Lost*
(ii) Dryden's *Mac Flecknoe*
(iii) Wordsworth's *Tintern Abbey*

A bright teenager asks you on the very first day of class, "But what is the relevance of this text to our lives?" What will your answer be?

2. Explain the importance of any *one* of the following to the study of contemporary literature/culture :

- (a) The Oedipus Myth
(b) The Book of Job
(c) Rama's Banishment
(d) The Story of Eklavya
(e) Kannagi's Curse
(f) Rasa-Dhvani aesthetics
(g) Catharsis
(h) A key text in the Indian grammatical/philosophical traditions

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3. How does *one* of the following reflect the world view of its time?
- (a) *Dr. Faustus* or *Hamlet*
 - (b) Metaphysical poetry or Restoration drama
 - (c) *The Waste Land* or *Sons and Lovers*
4. How do colonial themes and post-colonial concerns surface in *one* of the following?
- (a) *Robinson Crusoe*
 - (b) *Jane Eyre*
 - (c) *A Passage to India*
 - (d) *A House for Mr. Biswas*
5. Bring out the importance of any *one* of the following texts to the literature and culture of the United States :
- (a) *The Scarlet Letter*
 - (b) *Moby Dick*
 - (c) *The Sound and the Fury*
 - (d) *Catch 22*
 - (e) *The Bluest Eye*
 - (f) *The Wizard of Oz*
6. Choosing at least one important text either from Africa, Canada, Australia or Ireland, bring out the relationship between language and literature in that society.
7. With reference to one major modern translated text that you have read, explain what is the difference between studying an original and a translated text. To what extent do you consider it valid to include translated works in an English Studies curriculum?
8. Write an essay on any *one* of the following :
- (a) A critic you admire the most, explaining your reasons
 - (b) Nationalism in Indian English literature
 - (c) The decline of poetry
 - (d) The impact of new media on literary and cultural studies
 - (e) The value of the analysis of class, gender or sexual preference in literary studies

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INUEE: Question Papers (2007-2011) Rs.10/-

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2011

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

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[Field of Study Code : ENGP (135)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

Answer Question No. 1 which is compulsory (carries 30 marks)

Answer any two more from the remaining questions (which carry 20 marks each)

1. (a) Why do you want to pursue research in English literature? What do you intend to research on? How do you think JNU will fulfil your research goals and expectations? Write a cogent essay involving all the above questions.

Or

- (b) Does the current emphasis on interdisciplinarity in literary studies—both in terms of 'theory' (which includes philosophy, psychology, politics, history) and 'culture studies' (which involves cinema, performance, visual arts, folklore and the media)—enhance or impede your understanding of the literary process? Explain with illustrations.

2. (a) What do you look forward to when you read poetry? How does poetry work for you? Answer with examples from your favourite poetic form, genre, or movement.

Or

- (b) What was 'novel' about the new genre called the Novel that emerged in the long eighteenth century in England? Discuss with illustrations from representative novels of the period.

3. (a) Which of the two terms—'Renaissance' and 'Early Modernity'—in your opinion, better describes the period that is referred to by either of these designations? Respond with reference to English plays written in this period.

Or

- (b) "1956 is a watershed in the history of Modern English Drama." Do you agree? Respond to the above statement with illustrations from post-1956 British plays.

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4. (a) What are some of the continuities and discontinuities that you find in more than two centuries old tradition of Indian writing in English? Compare and contrast a nineteenth or an early-twentieth century text of Indian writing in English with one written in the latter half of the twentieth century or the twenty-first century to establish your answer.

Or

- (b) Show your familiarity with different strands of translation theory. Does knowledge of translation theory help you in reading translated texts and practising translation yourself? Discuss.

5. (a) What were some of the salient features of the mid-nineteenth century American Renaissance in literature? Discuss with reference to representative texts written during the period.

Or

- (b) How does multiethnic American literature contribute to the development of new forms of democracy? Comment on the features and the relevance of this New Democracy with literary examples.

6. (a) How important has 'the bush' been in shaping the contours of Australian literature? Has consciousness of 'the bush' impacted the three strands of Australian writings—by aboriginals, by white settlers, and by multiethnic emigrants—similarly? Discuss with examples.

Or

- (b) How do issues of class, gender, culture, history, mythology, language, and violence both construct and contradict the politics of Irish nationalism? Structure your argument with reference to representative texts of early-20th century Irish literature.

7. (a) "The original classical dichotomy between Platonism and Aristotelianism has governed most of our understanding of literature and culture since then." Agree or disagree with the statement with reference to concepts and postulations in Classical Western Literary Criticism from the Antiquity to the 19th century.

Or

- (b) Write short notes on about 750 words each on the contribution of any two of the following theorists to classical Indian aesthetics :

- (i) Bharata
- (ii) Abhinavagupta
- (iii) Anandavardhana
- (iv) Bhartrihari
- (v) Bhattanayaka
- (vi) Shri Shankuka

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JNUEE: Question Papers (2006-2010) Rs.10/-

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2010

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGP (135)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

All questions carry equal marks

Answer **three** questions, including Question No. 1 which is compulsory

1. Literary theories may be classified in terms of whether they stress the reader, the author, the text itself or the world ' e t x t engages with. Illustrate your answer by applying a chosen theory to a literary text.

Or

"Cultural identity... is a matter of 'becoming' as well as of 'being'. It belongs to the future as much as to the past. ... Cultural identities come from somewhere, have histories. But like everything that is historical, they undergo constant transformation ... identities are the names we give to the different ways we are positioned by, and position ourselves within, the narratives of the past." (Stuart Hall in *Cultural Identity and Diaspora*, 1990).

Illustrate the (re)construction of 'cultural identity' by *two* diasporic writers settled in Canada, Australia, USA or UK.

2. Which texts of Indian literature in translation should be part of English literature syllabi at the university level, if at all? Discuss also the theoretical issues involved.

Or

In a multicultural, multilingual country like India, translation between Indian languages requires the same skills and faces the same problems as translation between any of those languages and English. Discuss.

3. What are the implications of reading historical, biographical, autobiographical, journalistic texts and diaries as literature? Refer to at least two such texts in your answer.

Or

Discuss, with reference to texts that you are familiar with, the different factors that led to the rise of a new genre called 'the Novel' during the European Enlightenment.

3/60 4/60 5/60

4. Comment on the term 'Renaissance' with reference to the plays of the period normally referred to as the English Renaissance.

Or

"Post-1956 drama looks at the changing attitudes to sexuality within the contours of the family." Respond with illustrations from relevant texts.

5. According to Bharata's *Natyashastra*, *rasa* is an aesthetic experience that emanates from the enactment (*abhinaya*) of states of being (*bhava-s*). Where is this *rasa* located—in the spectator, actor, character, or the author? Is *rasa* produced, inferred, or manifested? Answer with reference to Abhinavagupta's *Abhinavabharati*

Or

"And so, when we hear persons saying that the tragedians, and Homer, who is at their head, know all the arts and all the things human, virtue as well as vice, and divine things too, for that the good poet cannot compose well unless he knows his subject, and that he who has not this knowledge can never be a poet, we ought to consider whether here also there may not be a similar illusion. Perhaps they may have come across imitators and been deceived by them ..." (Plato, *The Republic X*).

How would you describe this position—as an opinion, or a theory of literature? Give a reasoned answer with reference to texts.

6. African-American feminist critic, Bell Hooks, in *Critical Fictions* (1991), says, "moving from silence into speech is for the oppressed, the colonized, the exploited a gesture of defiance that heals, that is the expression of moving from object to subject, ... that is the liberated voice. It is that act of speech, of 'talking back' that makes new life, new growth possible." Would you agree that this concept of expressive voices takes a variety of forms—slave songs, autobiography, fiction, political speech, rap music and film to articulate assertion of African-American identities? Substantiate your answer with suitable examples.

Or

'*E Pluribus Unum*', meaning 'One from many', was the motto proposed for the first Great Seal of the United States in 1776 and the phrase asserted American determination to form a single nation from a collection of States. And yet, renewed attention to ethnic diversity, has on one hand, created fear of 'balkanisation of the United States by damaging the brittle bonds of national identity' while another viewpoint feels the need to 'rethink the complex multicultural past of America', and 'acknowledge and empower difference without breaking under its weight'.

What, in your opinion, is the future of American Multiculturalism?

2/60
6/60

7. Write short notes on any *two* of the following (700 words each) :

- (a) Gender in/and Translation
- (b) Theatre of the Absurd
- (c) Theme of War in the American Novel
- (d) Feminist Writing and Womens' Writing
- (e) Literature and Ideology
- (f) Psychoanalysis and Literary Studies
- (g) Indian English

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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2009

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGP (176)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

All questions carry equal marks

Answer **three** questions, including Question No. 1 which is compulsory

1. Choose a major literary text that you are familiar with and analyse it from the theoretical perspectives of New Criticism as well as Post-structuralism.

Or

Post-colonial women writers engage with the ideas of 'home and history' as negotiable spaces that must be read through as testimonies to the actual loss and subsequent reclamation of both. Discuss the statement substantiating your answer with textual references.

2. "A theory of translation is nothing but a theory of language." Discuss.

Or

What are the various roles that translations can play and have played over the years? Substantiate your answer.

3. "I am an American. I am an artist. I look at my country and I seek the human soul." Respond to American writer, Robert Olen Butler's observation as a meaningful revelation on the vibrant, multiethnic character of American literature emerging from the 'relocated and reforged' identities in American society.

Or

Draw upon your understanding and reading of African-American culture and literature to respond to Prof. Henry Louis Gates Jr's observation, "There's a sense in which the American century might be thought of as the African-American century—culturally speaking ... the cultural differentia that would elevate America—in an aesthetic of modernism otherwise dominated by Europe—was indelibly black : It's also true that most of the American culture that has gone global ... is at least partly of black parentage."

6/60