

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

28

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2012

M.A. ENGLISH

Total Pages: 7

[Field of Study Code : ENGM (215)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Question No. 1 is compulsory. It carries 40 marks.
Answer any other two questions, each carries 30 marks.

1. Write your critical response to the following poem by Vikram Seth, addressing its title, form and content :

OAK

Last night a storm raged round the bare oak tree.
A cold, sharp rain fell; wild in pace
The ice-fed air swirled free.
Now in this place
I see
No trace
Of wind or lee,
No grass, no earth—the space
Is a clear lake, deep as my knee.
I reach its edge and view, far down, my face.
I wade out to the bench, set down my wine,
My bread and cheese, and like some sage
Of old, sit down to dine.
I do not rage
Or pine
At age,
For youth once mine.
This pool, this plate, this page,
This tree whose roots are branch and tine
Holds me in its still hourglass, its free cage.

1/28

1000 w/t

2. How useful is the study of non-literary cultural forms—films, advertisements, television programmes, internet sites, etc.—to our understanding of the literary process? Elaborate.

Or

“Literature does not only reflect but also shapes socio-politico-economic relations.” Do you agree? Elaborate with reference to theoretical positions concerning literature that you are familiar with.

3. What does the term ‘Renaissance’ mean? Discuss, with detailed reference to any one play pertaining to the period normally referred to by this term, how justified it is to retain this label.

Or

It is no longer unusual to read Shakespeare through a postcolonial lens. Choose one Shakespeare play, offer a postcolonial reading of it, and address why such a reading is productive.

4. Choose two novels from postmodern American literature to illustrate Gloria Anzaldua’s observation that, “a minority writer ... when he or she writes, a lot of times it is with the desire, the imperative, the urge, or the need to explain, interpret and present his or her culture against the silencing, the repression, the erasure by the dominant culture”

Or

Is it productive to approach the literatures of the world in terms of their ‘national’ boundaries? Write an essay arguing either in support of or against the understanding of literature as a kind of ‘national’ expression.

5. How has your study of nineteenth century English literature shaped your understanding of ‘reason’, ‘emotion’, ‘imagination’, ‘democracy’, ‘class’, ‘family’ and ‘love’? Answer with reference to the texts written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Charles Dickens and Thomas Hardy.

Or

Choose two Romantic poets whose work you enjoy particularly. Write an essay addressing their formal experiments with genres as varied as the ballad, the lyric, the epic, etc.

2/28

2/20

6. How relevant is the study of classical Indian theory, like the Rasa theory, to the understanding of contemporary Indian literature and culture? Answer with reference to any literary text of your choice.

Or

The field of English literary studies, one may argue, is an outmoded discipline. Write an essay examining the discipline of English studies, in a world where the centrality of English no longer obtains.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

3/28

28

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

Total Pages : 10

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2011

1139

M.A. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGM (215)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Question No. 1 is compulsory. It carries 40 marks.
Answer any two other questions, each worth 30 marks.

1. Write your critical response to the following poem, addressing its title, form and content :

PRESENCES

This night has been so strange that it seemed
As if the hair stood up on my head.
From going-down of the sun I have dreamed
The woman laughing, or timid, or wild,
In rustle of lace or silken stuff,
Climbed up my creaking stair. They had read
All I had rhymed of that monstrous thing
Returned and unrequited love.
They stood in the door and stood in between
My great wood lectern and the fire
Till I could hear their hearts beating :
One is a harlot, and one a child
That never looked upon man with desire,
And one, it may be, a queen

—W. B. Yeats

2. Define literature, literary theory and literary criticism. Discuss the interdependence of the three with reference to the works of a major author of your choice.

Or

Is it important to foreground the ideological locations of both the author and the reader while interpreting or analyzing a literary work? Is it at all possible for a reader to transcend her or his ideological positions in the acts of reading and then writing about the authors and their works?

Answer with reference to at least two texts.

~~1/28~~
4/28

3. How would you like your postgraduate department to be named : 'Department of English', 'Department of English Studies', 'Department of Literary Studies' or 'Department of Culture Studies'? Would some of these labels overlap, or, conversely, would they mean neat demarcations in terms of selection of language(s), authors and texts, and the critical approaches to study them?

Or

Are classical authors and their texts still relevant to our contemporary situations? Choose any *two* classical authors from Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Dante, Bharata and Vyasa to substantiate your answer.

4. The novel emerged as the dominant literary form in the 18th century under the influence of social, political, economic and cultural factors that helped its growth and dissemination. The novel is still the dominant form in the 21st century. What factors do you think are keeping the novel ahead of other genres like poetry and drama? Discuss with reference to the literatures published since 1980.

Or

How has the study of Indian English, Afro-American, Canadian, African, Australian and other New Literatures influenced your understanding of the relationship between literature and national/culture/political/ethnic identity? Choose any *one* of the New Literatures to write your answer.

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following movements in British literature :
- (a) Renaissance
 - (b) Neoclassicism
 - (c) Romanticism
 - (d) Modernism

28

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

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2010

M.A. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGM (215)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Question No. 1 is compulsory. It carries **40** marks. Answer *any two* other questions, each worth **30** marks

1. Respond critically to the following poem, addressing its title, form and content :

AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

Aunt Jennifer's finger fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

By Adrienne Rich

2. Shakespeare's plays often mingle tragedy and comedy, although the two may be regarded as antagonistic to each other. Choose a Shakespearean tragedy and argue for the comic in it or a Shakespearean comedy in which you examine the tragic.

Or

It is no longer unusual to read Shakespeare through a postcolonial lens. Choose one Shakespeare play, offer a postcolonial reading of it, and address why such a reading is productive.

6/28

~~2/28~~

3. Georg Lukács wrote in 1916 that the novel, "the representative art-form of our age," is "the epic of a world that has been abandoned by God." Using at least 3 novels, argue either supporting or not this statement.

Or

Martin Green argues for twin trajectories of the novel initiated by Defoe's *Moll Flanders* and *Robinson Crusoe*. The first is concerned with domesticity and the second with the flight from it. Covering the novels of the 18th and 19th centuries in Britain, write an essay assessing the value of Green's approach for understanding the evolution of the novel.

4. As a student aspiring to a higher degree in English literature, you must have spent some time addressing the place of English studies in India. Write an essay examining what this place may be.

Or

Is it productive to approach the literatures of the world in terms of their 'national' boundaries? Write an essay arguing either in support of or against the understanding of literature as a kind of 'national' expression.

7/28

~~1/28~~