

M.Phil. DEGREE EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2007.

English

Paper I — RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND LITERARY THEORY

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer FIVE questions choosing atleast TWO questions from each Unit.

All questions carry equal marks.

UNIT I

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Describe how the MLA Hand Book helps you at different stages of your research.
2. Critically examine the term pure research. How does it differ from practical research?
3. What is data collection? What are its methods?
4. What are the difficulties experienced by a researcher in choosing a subject?
5. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following :
 - (a) Documentation
 - (b) Use of Italics.
 - (c) Preparing a sample bibliography of articles in periodicals.
 - (d) Index.
 - (e) Note making.
 - (f) Bibliography.
 - (g) The outline of thesis.
 - (h) The use of quotations.

UNIT II

LITERARY THEORY

6. Compare and contrast the approaches of 'Realism' and 'Naturalism' as forms of literary tradition of life. Discuss.
 7. One of the radical influences on 20th century literature is the impact of Marxism as a series of class struggles which finds its reflection in literature. Discuss.
 8. What are the fundamental tenets of post-colonial criticism? Illustrate.
 9. What are the major changes in literary criticism that helps the development of literary theory?
 10. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following :
 - (a) Surrealism.
 - (b) Modernism.
 - (c) Literature and society.
 - (d) Feminist criticism.
 - (e) Linguistics.
 - (f) Romanticism and Neoclassicism.
 - (g) Structuralism and post structuralism.
 - (h) Futurism.
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Paper II and III — BROAD AREA

A : British Literature

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Write an essay on plot and the structure of "The Moon and the six pence".
 2. In the greater part of Conrad's work, his theme is man against himself. Discuss in the light of Lord Jim.
 3. Discuss the theme of quest in Tennyson's Ulysses.
 4. Write a critical estimate of Pygma lion.
 5. What are the merits and demerits of the stress laid on a close reading by 'New criticism'. Write with special reference to Osborne's Look Back in Anger.
 6. Do you agree with the view that all the characters in The Cocktail Party with the exception of Celia, are caricatures?
 7. Mention some of Yeat's major preoccupations in poetry and comment on their treatment in the poem "The Second Coming".
 8. Do you consider "The Song of Alfred Prufrock" as a dramatic monologue?
 9. Attempt a critical estimate of Harold Pinter's The Caretaker as an absurd drama.
 10. Write short notes on any FOUR of the following :
 - (a) The stream of consciousness novel
 - (b) The absurd drama
 - (c) The problem play
 - (d) Melodrama
 - (e) Poetic drama
 - (f) Point of view.
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B : American Literature

Paper II and III — BROAD AREA

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer any FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Frost aimed at the translation of living speech into poetry. – Illustrate with reference to the poems prescribed.
2. Discuss the appropriateness of the title All my Sons by Arthur Miller.
3. Assess the contribution of Edward Albee's to American literature with special reference to The Zoo Story.
4. Comment on the question of identity faced by the Negro hero of Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man.
5. Write an essay on theme of love in Saul Bellow's Aerzog.
6. Do you consider The glass Menagerie as a subtle domestic drama? Discuss.
7. Write a critical comment on migratory problem and obduracy of affluent royalists in the face of appalling misery in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath.

8. Explain the mysterious relationship between memory and experience in Eudora Welty's Optimist's Daughter.
 9. Comment on the depiction of 'fall', realisation of sin and evil, theme of innocence and corruption in William Faulkner's The Sound and the Fury.
 10. Evaluate Eugene's O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh as a grotesque tragedy of an alcoholic to free himself from his last illusions and hopes.
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Paper II & III — BROAD AREA

C : Indian Writing in English

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer any FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Write a critical note on Girish Karnad's dramatic technique in Hayavadana.
 2. Discuss Dr. S. Radhakrishnan's views as explicated in A Creative Life.
 3. "Untouchable" as psychological novel 'stream of consciousness' Define and explain.
 4. Critically examine the view that Ezekiel's poetry displays his Indianess in thought, feeling and imagery.
 5. "Kamala Das is one of the most aggressively individualistic of the new poets". Discuss with special reference to the poems written by her.
 6. Discuss the central theme of Rushdie's Shame.
 7. Identify the major themes in Indian English Poetry.
 8. Comment on the narrative technique in Raja Rao's The Serpent and the Rope.
 9. Discuss the theme of alienation in Anita Desai's novel "Cry the Peacock".
 10. Comment on the New Directions in Indian English drama.
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Paper II & III — BROAD AREA

D : Commonwealth Literature

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer any FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Examine the thematic concerns of V.S. Naipaul in "The Mimic Men".
2. Attempt a critical appreciation of Patrick White's The Tree of Man.
3. Consider Wole Soyinka as an African dramatist with special reference to the work "The Interpreters".
4. Write a critical note on the plot and structure of Chinua Achebe's Arrow of God.
5. Comment on Ngugi's treatment of cultural conflict in Decolonising the Mind.
6. Write an essay on riveting history of South Africa and a penetrating portrait of a courageous woman in Nadine Gordimer's Burger's daughter.
7. In what sense is an African Novelist an interpreter and a literary chronicler of his community's past and present?
8. Examine the art of characterisation in Margaret Lawrence's This Side Jordan with special emphasis on Nathaniel Amegbe.
9. Critically examine the significance and importance of the title of Michael Ondaatje's The English Patient.
10. Write an essay on the theme and narrative technique of Wilson Harris's Palace of the Peacock.

Paper II and III — BROAD AREA

E : Literary Criticism

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. How does Aristotle distinguish between comedy and tragedy and the purpose they achieve?
 2. Discuss the achievement of Dr. Johnson as a Neo-classical critic with reference to his "Life of Milton".
 3. Sidney's greatest achievement in prose was his Defence of Poetry in which the styles clear and straight forward. Discuss.
 4. Build up the bases of Wordsworth's criticism in his "Preface to Lyrical Ballads".
 5. Define I.A. Richards's four kinds of meaning and discuss their usefulness as tools of criticism.
 6. Examine the concept of "structure, sign and play" and their role in discourse as put forth by Jacques Derrida.
 7. What are the qualities of artistic creation, experience and judgement, according to Horace?
 8. Do you agree with the view that "Tradition and Individual talent" is shared by ambiguities?
 9. What are the implications of intentional fallacy? Do you agree with this critical view? Give your own reasons.
 10. Why does Brooks think that Irony is particularly important in the poetry of our time?
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Paper II and III — BROAD AREA

F : European Literature

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer any FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Explain the motives for Raskolnikov's crime, in Crime and Punishment.
2. Write a critical essay on the preoccupations of Camus in The Stranger.
3. Examine the Nora-Helmer relationship in "A Doll's House".
4. Comment on the importance of the title Siddhartha.
5. How do you justify Pierre, Andrey, Nikolai and Natasha as fully three dimensional as opposed to several other state characters who crowd War and Peace.
6. Discuss the Brecht's art of drama from your study of "The Caucasian Chalk Circle".
7. Critically examine the character of Julien Sorel of Stendhal's in The Red and the Black.
8. How does Beckett convert non-action into 'action' in Waiting for Godot?
9. How successfully does Strindberg address social and class structure in Miss Julie.
10. Bring out Pirandello's thematic preoccupations and his use of innovative dramatic techniques in Six Characters in Search of an Author.

G : English Language Teaching

Paper II and III — BROAD AREA

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

Answer any FIVE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss briefly the aims and methods of historical study of language.
2. What are the differences between learning the mother tongue and a second language?
3. Discuss the merits and demerits of Direct method.
4. Write an essay on the structural approach and communicative approach.
5. The mother tongue has a definite contribution to make to the effective teaching of second language and this is the major. If not the sole, theoretical basis of the bilingual and multi lingual methods." Critically discuss the above and bring out the contribution of L_1 in teaching L_2 .
6. Describe the reception and expression aims of teaching English which language skills are easier to acquire than others.
7. What are the objectives and aims of language teaching?
8. List the general misconceptions about language and say how they affect the teaching of English.
9. Describe the basic traits of the Audio-lingual method in India.
10. Discuss the characteristics of communicative language teaching.