

MA Semester IV

2021

English

End Semester Examination

CC XIII

Literary Theory

Full Marks: 40

Time: 2 hrs

PLEASE READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START WRITING:

- Write the **name of the examination, examination roll number, registration number, course name** and the **total number of pages submitted** in the **front page** of the answer script (in the **template** already provided).
- Leave a **one inch margin** on the **left** and on **top** of each page before starting to write the examination.
- Put **page number** on **top right** of each page.
- Students should write **legibly** their answers preferably on **A4 size sheets**, scan them and send the entire answer script as **one PDF file**.
- The scanned answer scripts should have **enough clarity** to enable evaluation.
- Of the questions attempted, the answers to only the first required number of questions (as instructed in the question paper) will be evaluated. So **please do not attempt extra questions**.
- **Word limit** in questions, wherever specified, should be **strictly adhered to**.
- **No multiple submissions** of answer scripts will be allowed.
- **Avoid** discussion with anyone else; it may **reduce** your marks if **similarities** are found in answers.
- **Plagiarism** related to any **online/offline** source(s) will be **strictly dealt with**.

(The long and the short questions are not to be attempted from the same text/subunit)

Unit I

1. Answer **any one** of the following questions (750 words):

15 x 1 = 15

- a) Discuss Lukacs' s views about the modernist obsession with the 'psychopathological' in literature. Do you agree with his view? Give reasons for your answer with suitable references from literary texts. (7+2+6)
- b) Critically analyze how Wolfgang Iser defines the text, work, and the reader and theorizes the notion of "interaction."
- c) Would you say Roland Barthes's essay 'The Death of the Author' completely reverses the ideas of traditional authorship and traditional readership? Substantiate with close reference to the text.

2. Answer **any one** of the following questions (250 words):

5 x 1 = 5

- a) How, according to Lukacs, does individual solitariness in modernist literature differ from that found in the literature of traditional realism?
- b) Write a short note on "blanks" and "ideation" as conceptualized by Iser.
- c) Write briefly on the idea of the *scriptor* as found in Roland Barthes's 'The Death of the Author'.

Unit II

3. Answer **any one** of the following questions (750 words):

15 x 1 = 15

- a) Would you consider Derrida's notion of the supplement as adequate in addressing the problematic of totalization in language? Answer with suitable references to the essay "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences".
- b) Show how the binary of self and other contributes to the formation of the 'visual pleasure' of the mainstream cinema as discussed in Laura Mulvey's essay 'Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema'.
- c) What, according to Baudrillard, are the characteristics of a simulacrum? Answer with reference to any three examples.

4. Answer **any one** of the following questions (250 words):

5 x 1 = 5

- a) What, according to Derrida, makes the engineer a species of the bricoleur?
 - b) What, according to Laura Mulvey, are the differences between narrative and spectacles? Discuss briefly.
 - c) Write a short note on the four phases of the image as theorized by Baudrillard.
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