

This question paper contains 4 printed pages]

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S. No. of Question Paper : 1293

Unique Paper Code : 203505

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Name of the Paper : XIX (B) : Literary Theory (i)

Name of the Course : B.A. (Hons.)

Semester : V

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Attempt all six questions.

Section A

(Attempt three questions from Section A)

1. (i) "Socialist realism differs from critical realism, not only in being based on a concrete socialist perspective, but also in using this perspective to describe the forces working towards socialism from the inside."

What does Lukacs mean when he says that socialist realism differs from critical realism ? Explain the line "to describe the forces working towards socialism from the inside".10

Or

- (ii) "It follows that, in order to exist, every social formation must reproduce the conditions of its production at the same time as it produces, and in order to be able to produce."
What does Althusser mean by "every social formation". Explain "reproduce the conditions of its production at the same time as it produces, and in order to be able to produce,". 10

P.T.O.

2. (i) "It is clearly true that the problem of functionalism has been a serious one for Marxist feminism. Both feminist and Marxist accounts of women's oppression have tended to slide uncritically into a mode of explanation which is undeniably functionalist; many feminist accounts explain various forms of oppression in terms of their supposedly self-evident functions of perpetuating patriarchal dominance, and many Marxist accounts centre on the supposed benefits, or functions, for capital of women's subordinate position."

Explain and comment on the ideas discussed in the passage above.

10

Or

- (ii) "Masculine homosexual relations devalue the exalted worth of the standard of value. When the penis itself becomes simply a means of pleasure, and indeed a means of pleasure among men, the phallus loses its power. Pleasure, so it is said, should be left to women, those creatures so unfit for the seriousness of symbolic rules".

Explain the meaning of "the phallus loses its power." What does Irigaray mean by "Pleasure" should be "left to women"?

10

3. (i) "The difficulty in thinking of an 'Indian' literature, therefore, is not that it is spread over many languages, with histories of very uneven development, nor that the state boundaries which have historically contained these literary productions have been shifting through all the centuries we know of. The difficulty lies, rather, in the very premises that have often governed the narrativization of that history."

What does Ahmad mean by "histories of uneven development?" Explain Ahmad's point "The difficulty lies, rather, in the very premises that have often governed the narrativization of that history."

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Or

- (ii) "Though representing a convergence of interest, these two events—of British involvement in Indian education and the entry of missionaries—were far from being complementary or mutually supportive".

What does Viswanathan mean by "representing a convergence of interest"? How were Indian education and the entry of missionaries "far from being complementary or mutually supportive?"

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Section B

(Attempt *three* questions from Section B)

4. (i) For Gramsci hegemony operates through civil society. Discuss with reference to his essay, "The Formation of the Intellectuals."

Or

- (ii) For Brecht the most important thing in life is the present where human beings are forging history. The past, he says, should be interpreted in this light so as to make sense of the present. Elaborate with reference to his essay, "A Short Organum for the Theatre."

15

P.T.O.

5. (i) According to Elaine Showalter, women writers have not been properly documented because of "residual Great Traditionalism." Discuss with reference to her essay, "The Female Tradition".

Or

- (ii) Mitchell states that "you cannot choose the imaginary, the semiotic, the carnival as an alternative to the symbolic". Discuss her reasons as given in her essay, "Femininity, narrative and psychoanalysis". 15

6. (i) What does Said mean when he says that the Orient is an integral part of European material civilization and culture ?

Or

- (ii) What is the argument that Spivak gives in stating, "Between patriarchy and imperialism, subject-constitution and object-formation the figure of the woman disappears ?" 15