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

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2012

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M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

002

[ Field of Study Code : ENGP (135) ]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

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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

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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JNUEE: Question Papers (2005-2009) Rs.10/-

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Total Pages: 8

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2009

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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."

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4. How are the structure and design of the playhouse important for dramatic performance according to Bharata in *Natyashastra*?

Or

Bhartrihari says that the meaning of an utterance is limited by its use (of the utterance) as it is determined by the intention of the speaker. What are the different signifying powers of language according to Vakyapadiya?

5. How has the conception of literary figures changed from 18th century poetry to the 20th century modernist poetry? Answer with special reference to symbolism, imagism and impressionism.

Or

How do the categories of race, class and gender contribute to reading Charles Dickens and Charlotte Bronte? Substantiate your answer with references from their novels.

6. Recent Indian English novels and films about India prove that India and Indians are being represented in a new orientalist manner, one which has been called Indo-chic. Discuss.

Or

"To really appreciate Indian English literature, one must read it in the matrix of other Indian literatures." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

7. Identify the purpose and contribution of non-verbal dramatic techniques in any two plays you have watched recently and analyse how they contribute toward the overall thematic and dramatic effects of the plays.

Or

Do you agree that every play must in some way be updated in production to become relevant for a contemporary audience? Argue your case with reference to any two updated/adapted versions of plays that you may have watched recently.

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

- (a) Canadian Writing of Indian Diaspora
- (b) Life Writings in Australian Literature
- (c) Nationalism in Irish Literature
- (d) Popular Culture
- (e) Post-modernism
- (f) The Graphic Novel
- (g) African Drama

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JNUEE: Question Papers (2004-2008) Rs.10/-

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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2008

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

- Note :** (i) The question in Section I, i.e., Question No. 1 is compulsory. Answer any two questions from Section II.  
(ii) Question No. 1 carries 30 marks, while the other questions carry 20 marks each.

SECTION—I

This is a compulsory question

1. Give a comprehensive account of what you intend to pursue your research on, if admitted to JNU. Discuss your research proposal with special reference to why you think this research is relevant to the current contours of literary studies in India. Also elaborate how you think being in JNU will help fulfil your research objectives. 30

SECTION—II

Attempt any two of the following questions

2. (a) Comment on the term 'Renaissance', with reference to plays of the period normally referred to as the English Renaissance. 20  
Or  
(b) 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. (a) Write an essay on any one of the following performance modes using any two plays to illustrate your points : 20  
Realism ; Expressionism ; Surrealism ; Political and Epic Theatre ;  
The Theatre of Cruelty ; The Theatre of the Absurd.  
Or  
(b) "Post 1956 English drama looks at the changing contours of the family." Discuss.
4. (a) "Indian English novels from the last two decades of the twentieth century portray a sense of decay, a sense of loss, a sense of alienation, while still holding out hope." Discuss with reference to any three novels. 20

B/60

Or

(a) Discuss the term 'Indian English Literature' in the light of the literary works you have read.

5. (a) "The essential conflict in translation theory/practice is with regard to the role of the translator." Discuss. 20

Or

(b) Do you think non-European theories of translation are essentially different from European theories? Give reasons for your answer.

6. (a) Compare and contrast two texts, one from African Writings in English and one from Afro-American Writings to show how there are similarities as well as differences in the concerns that these two bodies of literature show. 20

Or

(b) Show your familiarity with literature in English from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands or the Caribbean by analysing in detail one text each from any two of the regions mentioned above.

7. (a) Write short notes on the relationship between literature and culture, and any two of the following discourses : 20

- (i) Classical Indian Aesthetics
- (ii) Marxism and Post-Marxism
- (iii) Feminism and Post-Feminism
- (iv) Psychoanalysis
- (v) Colonial Discourse, Post-Colonialism and Globalization
- (vi) Structuralism and Post-Structuralism

Or

(b) What relationship does technology have with artistic expression? Discuss, with reference to different technological innovations in the field over the last few centuries, like the print revolution, the electrical revolution, the electronic revolution, etc., how literature and art and our approach to them may have transformed themselves in their interface with the different media.

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JNUEE: Question Papers (2003-2007) R

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**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2007**

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours      Maximum Marks : 70

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

All questions carry equal marks

1. The recent years have witnessed a revision of syllabi and course contents of English literature programmes in Indian universities. Discuss, with reference to the MA syllabus of your university, some of the shifts in interests, perspectives, and thrust areas that you consider significant. What is your assessment of these changes?

2. (a) Do you think theatre has any role in shaping national consciousness? Substantiate your answer with reference to plays from any one country of your choice, written in the second half of the 20th century.

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(b) What may be some of the reasons behind the genesis of the Novel as a form at a certain historical juncture? Discuss with reference to early novels of any one literature of your choice the initiation of the genre in that literature.

3. (a) It is often suggested that the English Renaissance was a 'golden age'. Demonstrate whether you agree or disagree with this assessment with reference to plays written during the period.

*Or*

(b) Discuss some of the salient features of the English literary movement called Romanticism with special reference to poetry written during this period.

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4. (a) "Since there is no Indian English, there can be no Indian English literature." Discuss.

Or

- (b) Discuss aspects of the mixed cultural tradition that Australian literature represents. Does it connect in anyway with Indian writing in English?

5. (a) Choose a text by an African writer in English and analyse it on the twin axes of race and gender.

Or

- (b) Choose a text by an Afro-American writer and, in your analysis of the same, discuss how black American assertions carve a place for themselves within the rubric of American literature.

6. (a) Discuss how non-literary or para-literary cultural forms can make a serious contribution to literary studies with reference to and illustrations from any one of the following forms :

(i) Cinema

(ii) Performing arts

(iii) Visual arts

- (b) Write short notes on any two of the following :

(i) The *rasa-bhāva* formulation of Bharata

(ii) Marxist literary analysis

(iii) Feminism and post-feminism

(iv) Psychoanalysis and literary studies

(v) Postcolonial theory

(vi) Globalization and culture