

Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

**Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, September 2024**

**English Language and Literature**

**EL 524 : CRITICAL STUDIES I**

**(2022 Admission Onwards)**

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I. Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **50** words.

1. What is Ambiguity?
2. What is Oedipus complex?
3. What is Polyphony?
4. What is Metanarrative?
5. What is False Consciousness?
6. Discuss Cultural Materialism.
7. What is Capitalism?
8. Difference between Irony and Paradox.

**(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)**

II. Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **100** words.

9. What is meant by the pleasure principle and the reality principle according to Sigmund Freud?
10. Discuss Lacan's main ideas.
11. What is the historicity of texts in New Historicism?
12. Describe the core ideas of *Marxism and Literature* that Raymond Williams advocates.

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13. In his essay "Art as Technique," Viktor Shklovsky tries to highlight the concept of Defamiliarization. Explain.
14. What is meant by langue and parole?
15. Explain Structural Anthropology.
16. What does Derrida mean by discourse?

**(5 × 5 = 25 Marks)**

- III. Answer any **two** of the following questions in about **300** words choosing **one** from each group.

GROUP A

17. What does Foucault mean by Continuity, Discontinuity, and Contradiction in his work *The Archaeology of Knowledge*?
18. What are the similarities and differences between Formalism, Structuralism, and New Criticism?
19. What were the main contributions of Jacques Lacan to Psychoanalysis?

GROUP B

20. Explain Russian formalism and its effect on literature.
21. Discuss the Marxist interpretation of Ideology.
22. Explain Derrida's criticism of Claude Lévi Strauss in "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human sciences."

**(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)**

- IV. Critically analyze any **one** of the following passages in about **150** words using any critical theory you have studied.

23. Certainly fame is like a river that beareth up things light and swoln, and drowns things weighty and solid. But if persons of quality and judgment concur, then it is (as the Scripture saith) nomen bonum instar unguenti fragrantis. It fireth all round about, and will not easily away. For the odors of ointments are more durable, than those of flowers. There be so many false points of praise, that a man may justly hold it a suspect. Some praises proceed merely of flattery; and if he be an ordinary flatterer, he will have certain common attributes, which may serve every man; if he be a cunning flatterer, he will follow the archflatterer, which is a man's self; and wherein a man thinketh best of himself, therein the flatterer will uphold him most: but if he be an impudent flatterer, look wherein a man is conscious to himself, that he is most defective, and is most out of countenance in himself, that will the flatterer entitle him to perforce, spreta conscientia.



24. I hear it was charged against me that I sought to destroy institutions,

But really I am neither for nor against institutions,

(What indeed have I in common with them? or what with the destruction of them?)

Only I will establish in the Mannahatta and in every city of these States inland and seaboard,

And in the fields and woods, and above every keel little or large that dents the water,

Without edifices or rules or trustees or any argument,

The institution of the dear love of comrades.

25. In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defence of the indefensible. Things like the continuance of British rule in India, the Russian purges and deportations, the dropping of the atom bombs on Japan, can indeed be defended, but only by arguments which are too brutal for most people to face, and which do not square with the professed aims of political parties. Thus political language has to consist largely of euphemism, question-begging and sheer cloudy vagueness. Defenceless villages are bombarded from the air, the inhabitants driven out into the countryside, the cattle machine-gunned, the huts set on fire with incendiary bullets: this is called pacification. Millions of peasants are robbed of their farms and sent trudging along the roads with no more than they can carry: this is called transfer of population or rectification of frontiers. People are imprisoned for years without trial, or shot in the back of the neck or sent to die of scurvy in Arctic lumber camps: this is called elimination of unreliable elements. Such phraseology is needed if one wants to name things without calling up mental pictures of them.

**(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)**

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