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63/1 (SEM–5) DSE1/ENGHE5016

2023

ENGLISH

Paper : ENGHE5016

(Literary Theory)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : Three hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Choose the correct answer : ***(any six)*** 1×6=6

(a) According to Louis Althusser every social formation arises from a dominant mode of

(i) Nationalism

(ii) Production

(iii) Legal System

(iv) Individuals

Contd.

(b) In which area did Elaine Showalter begin to do her research ?

(i) Victorian women writers

(ii) Feminist

(iii) Modern women writers

(iv) Post-colonialism

(c) Derrida's essay, *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science,* opens with a statement made by a French thinker

(i) Jacques Rousseau

(ii) Rene Descartes

(iii) Claude Levi-Strauss

(iv) Montaigne

(d) Which of the following is not authored by Michel Foucault ?

(i) *Madness and Civilisation*

(ii) *The Order of Things*

(iii) *Discipline and Punish*

(iv) *Speech and Phenomena*

(e) What does Edward Said mean by 'the Orient' in the context of 'Orientalism'?

(i) Eastern philosophy

(ii) Eastern art and culture

(iii) A constructed and imagined entity representing the East

(iv) The geographical region of Asia

(f) Passive resistance is a method of securing rights by

(i) Personal suffering

(ii) Body force

(iii) Obeying laws

(iv) Being religious

(g) What is the main focus of Elaine Showalter's essay, *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited*?

(i) Analyzing the works of prominent feminist authors

(ii) Reflecting on the history and impact of feminist literary criticism

(iii) Exploring the evolution of literature written by women

(iv) Examining the role of male authors in feminist literature

(h) "Ideology is the system of the ideas and representations which dominate the mind of a man and a social group." The statement is made by

(i) Michel Foucault

(ii) Louis Althusser

(iii) Jacques Derrida

(iv) Karl Marx

(i) According to Foucault, how does power function in relation to knowledge and truth ?

(i) Power is entirely separate from knowledge and truth

(ii) Power is used to suppress knowledge and truth

(iii) Power produces and shapes knowledge and truth

(iv) Knowledge and truth have no impact on power

(j) What does 'deconstruction', according to Derrida, seek to do in relation to the binary oppositions found in structuralist thought ?

(i) Criticise them

(ii) Affirm their stability

(iii) Expose their instability

(iv) Ignore them

2. Answer the following questions : ***(any five)*** 2×5=10

(a) What does Gramsci mean by *homo faber* and *homo sapiens*?

(b) Mention *any two* constituent parts of the ideological state apparatus.

(c) Why does Showalter challenge the idea of 'literary canon' in her essay?

(d) How does Foucault define 'repression'?

(e) What does Derrida mean by 'Transcendental Signified'?

(f) What do you understand by 'soul force' from your reading of *Passive Resistance*?

(g) In which book and year was the essay *Indian Literature : Notes towards the Definition of a Category* by Aijaz Ahmad published?

3. Answer the following questions : ***(any six)*** 5×6=30

(a) Write a note on Gramsci's distinction between 'civil society' and 'political society'.

(b) Why is educational system a dominant ideological state apparatus in capitalist social formations ?

(c) Write a brief note on Luce Irigaray's critique on Freud in *When the Goods Get Together.*

(d) How does Derrida deconstruct the idea of a 'centre' in his essay *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science* ?

(e) Comment on Toril Moi's critique of Elaine Showalter's *A Literature of Their Own.*

(f) How is Oriental viewed by Balfour and Cromer ?

(g) Elaine Showalter discusses 'three phases' of feminist literary criticism in her essay *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited.* What are these and how does she characterize them ?

(h) Write a brief note on Michel Foucault's critique of the concepts of ideology and repression.

(i) Why does the editor clarify that it's still important for passive resisters to strengthen their bodies in *Passive Resistance* ?

(j) Write a note on the difficulties in theorising the term 'Indian literature' as a fixed category, as discussed in the essay *Indian Literature : Notes towards the Definition of a Category.*

4. Answer the following questions : ***(any two)*** 10×2=20

(a) "All men are intellectuals, one could therefore say : but not all men have in society the function of intellectuals." Elaborate the statement with reference to the distinctions between traditional and organic intellectuals made by Antonio Gramsci.

(b) Discuss the changes and progress within the field of feminist literary criticism as reflected by Elaine Showalter in revisiting her work in *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited.*

(c) Give a critical view on the essay *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science.*

(d) "Orientalism is nothing more than a structure of lies or of myths." Interpret the statement with reference to the prescribed chapter of Said's *Orientalism.*

5. Answer the following questions : ***(any one)*** 14×1=14

(a) How does Gramsci establish the relation between the rise of the intellectual class and the process of production in a society ?

(b) Elaborate Foucault's arguments on the relationship between truth, power and the position of the intellectual in society.

(c) "Passive resistance is an all-sided sword; it can be used anyhow; it blesses him who uses it and him against whom it is used." Write a critical note on Gandhi's theory of passive resistance in the light of the above line.