

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2014

M.Phil./Ph.D. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGP (135)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

Question No. 1 is compulsory and is worth 30 marks.

Answer *any two* of the other questions, which carry 20 marks each.

Make sure you clearly indicate which question and sub-question you attempt.

1. (a) What do you think is the future of English studies in India? What changes would you like to see in the field to meet the emergent needs of students? How do you think you, in turn, can contribute to this discipline?

Or

- (b) How important do you think it is to be aware of the formal aspects of a poem to be able to appreciate poetry? Develop your argument with illustrations from any two poetic forms.

Or

- (c) How are the narrative conventions and techniques followed in the short story different from those of other modes of narration, like the epic or the novel? Discuss with reference to any two short stories of your choice.

2. (a) Does a perusal of literature from the ethnic minorities of the United States compel us to pose questions very different from mainstream American literature? Or does the resultant focus on multiculturalism reinforce the extension of America's image of itself in consonance with its role in the current global world order? Discuss with reference to two significant and relevant texts.

Or

- (b) In *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916), Stephan Daedalus says, "You talk to me of nationality, language, and religion. I shall try to fly by those nets." Examine the pertinence of this remark with reference to any two postcolonial texts by two different authors.

3. (a) Do you see a distinctive shift in the contours of Indian writing in English today because of the preponderance in it of 'genre fiction'? Or do you see in this development a continuation of its earlier themes and concerns, albeit in different terms? Discuss with reference to two texts—one each from any two of the following genres of contemporary Indian fiction in English :

(i) campus novel

(ii) chick-lit

(iii) sci-fi fantasy

(iv) crime thriller

Or

(b) How justified is it to include Indian literatures in translation within an English studies curriculum? Does your knowledge, or the lack of it, of the original language and cultural milieu of a text being read impact such a curricular exercise? Discuss with reference to two texts—one which you have read in the original as well as in English translation, and another which, being from an Indian language that you do not know, you have read only in translation.

4. (a) How important is it to study precepts of classical philosophy or aesthetics to understand current literary theoretical debates? Discuss with special reference to how Plato's conception of 'mimesis' or Bharata's idea of affect can be read in the light of some of our contemporary theoretical concerns.

Or

(b) Apply non-Western aesthetic or philosophical concerns to any two major contemporary texts, at least one of which is African, Canadian or Australian.

5. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :

(a) Dalit Autobiographies

(b) Trauma Literature

(c) 'The Death of the Author' vs. 'The Author Function'

(d) Identitarianism vs. Cosmopolitanism in Literary/Cultural Studies

(e) From Theory to Post-Theory

(f) Digital Humanities and New Media Studies

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