

**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27**

**I MA ENGLISH – II SEMESTER**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION JULY 2022**

**EN 9318 - English Studies - II**

**Time: 2 ½ hours** **Max. Marks: 70**

**This question paper contains 4 sections and 3 printed pages.**

**SECTION A**

**Read the following carefully:**

He [Terry Eagleton] also criticizes the idea of seeing literature as a form of ‘fine writing’. Eagleton argues, what might be fine writing in certain geographical location, is probably the exact opposite in other locations. Thus, the moment location is removed, the moment these notions cease to have meaning, although subjective. He goes on to chastise this ‘finesse’ as something subjective and rather suggests a relegation of writings that are ‘not fine’. In the end of the chapter, he draws a concluding commentary on the problematic of designating literature in such objective manner. And finally, how we come to define literature based on value-judgments. For Eagleton, literature is not a stable term and is being defined in different, but subjective manners. For him, this is a sort of a dilemma. Because once we unfetter the definition literature to subjectivity, it becomes worn-out and everyone would jump to claim everything they do as literature. However, for him, this is better-though it’s a last resort- than just fixity and decidability in providing meaning as it is nothing but mere hypocrisy. He concludes by addressing this claim to value-judgments which are based on social and political ideologies of one’s own milieu

**Answer any ONE of the following in about 200 words each (1x15=15)**

1. Explain why the writer above argues that simply ‘fine writing’ does not constitute the sum total of literature? From your reading of Eagleton’s essay, show how Eagleton argues this point of view. Comment also on the significance of the view that literature is not an objective category
2. Do you agree with the writer’s view that Eagleton argues that Literature as a discipline is based on value-judgements? Explain your view using suitable arguments from your reading.

**SECTION B**

**Answer any TWO of the following in about 150 words each: (2x10=20)**

1. Show how Culler attempts to bring together both ‘poetics and linguistics’ in the reading and investigation of the literary text. Do you think that it is a well-thought of project to combine the two perspectives? Argue your point of view suitably.
2. What according to you is TS Eliot’s view of “tradition” in literature? How does he differentiate the same from ‘individual talent”? Do you consider his views meaningful for the processes of literary study?
3. Explain in detail Gerard Genette’s understanding of narrative and its many aspects. Of what significance and use are his ideas about narrative for literary study today?

**SECTION C**

**Read the following carefully**

Richards begins the extract by pointing to the difficulty of all reading. The problem of making out the meaning is the starting point in criticism. The answers to ‘what is a meaning?’, ‘What are we doing when we endeavour to make it out?’ are the master keys to all the problems of criticism. The all-important fact for the study of literature or any other mode of communication is that there are several kinds of meaning. Whether we speak, write, listen, read, the ‘Total meaning’ is a blend of several contributory meanings of different types. Language – and pre-eminently language as it is used in poetry has several tasks to perform simultaneously. Four kinds of functions or meanings as enlisted by I.A. Richards are the following: (1) Sense, (2) Feeling, (3) Tone and (4) Intention.

**Answer the following in about 150 words each (2x10=20)**

1. Choose any two of the above-mentioned functions of meaning and elaborate on them using what I A Richards has suggested in his work. Also explain what motivated your choice with regard to the functions of meaning themselves.
2. Do you find the notions presented by I A Richards relevant today? Give suitable reasons for your answer

**SECTION D**

**Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions set on it:**

**I look at the world**

**BY**[**LANGSTON HUGHES**](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/langston-hughes)

I look at the world

From awakening eyes in a black face—

And this is what I see:

This fenced-off narrow space

Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls

Through dark eyes in a dark face—

And this is what I know:

That all these walls oppression builds

Will have to go!

I look at my own body

With eyes no longer blind—

And I see that my own hands can make

The world that's in my mind.

Then let us hurry, comrades,

The road to find.

**Answer the following in not more than 3 sentences each (3x5=15)**

1. Explain the relationship between “awakening eyes in a black face” and “narrow space assigned to me”
2. What connections can you work out between “silly walls”, “dark face” and the building of oppression in the second stanza? Explain briefly
3. Explain the relationship between “my own body” and “the world that’s in my ind” in the last stanza.