

St Joseph's College (Autonomous) Bangalore  
 Mid-Semester Test- August 2016  
 MA English - III Semester  
 EN: 9114 Critical Theory

Time: 1 ½ hrs

Max Marks: 35

SECTION A

Answer any one of the following:

1x10=10

- 1) Discuss in detail how Patricia Waugh argues that “literary theories are provisional constructs” that are unstable and varying as any other mode of thinking and writing. Identify the implications underlying such arguments and show how these suggest a new and fresh notions about literature and culture today.
- 2) Examine Terry Eagleton’s mapping of the pitfalls of the formalist project of literary criticism and explain how his arguments lead him to the conclusion that all “value judgments” about literature vary historically and bear strong relations to social ideologies.

SECTION B

Answer any two the following:

2x10=20

- 3) Examine and comment on how Cleanth Brooks distinguishes between the poetry of Wordsworth and that of Donne in relation to their use of the device of paradox.
- 4) Do you agree with Terry Eagleton’s view that ‘literature does not exist’? Argue your point of view appropriately.
- 5) Explain why FR Leavis’ claims that Hardy’s poem, “After a Journey” is far superior to Emily Bronte’s “Cold in the Earth”. Comment on the criteria of literary critique he uses to determine such difference. Illustrate your comments suitably.

SECTION C

Write a short note on any one of the following

1x5=5

- 6) FR Leavis’ view of Alexander Smith’s “Barbara”
- 7) Cleanth Brooks’ comments on the poem, “The Phoenix and the Turtle”

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