

**ST. JOSEPH’S UNIVERSITY BANGALORE- 27**

**II MA ENGLISH – III SEMESTER**

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2023**

**EN: 9318 ENGLISH STUDIES – III**

**Time: 2 hours** **Max. Marks: 50**

**This question paper contains 4 sections and 2 printed pages.**

**SECTION A**

**I. Read the following carefully and answer ANY ONE of the questions that follow in about 200-250 words :**

Humanism is a philosophical and literary movement which has human being as its central concern. It also holds a general belief that human nature is something fixed and constant. Now, Liberal Humanism is a term which falls within the domain of literary criticism. During the 1970s, the hour of literary theory, as it was known, Liberal Humanism was a term applied to theory that came before ‘theory’. The word ‘Liberal’ defines something it is not, that is not ‘radically political’ and thus evasive on political commitment, on how it is aligned. Humanism in this context also means something similar, that is something not-Marxist, not-Feminist or not-Theoretical. Liberal Humanists also believe in the fixedness and constancy of human nature as expressed in great literature. There is an implication by an influential school that if you are not a Marxist-critic or a Structuralist or a Feminist critic for that matter, then you are a Liberal Humanist by default even if you recognise this or not. (Dudhate, Madhav “Theory Before Theory/Liberal Humanism” *BELL: Basics for English Language and Literature May 13, 2020)*

**I A. Answer any ONE of the following : (15 marks)**

1. Explore in detail the ways in which the above notion of liberal humanism manifests itself in literary texts?

2. Do you consider the above extract an adequate view of Liberal humanism? Or does the writer leave out certain aspects of the concept of Liberal humanism? Explain your point of view using suitable arguments

**SECTION B**

**II. Answer the following questions in 150 words each: (2x10=20)**

3. Comment on how Spivak explores the nature of three women’s novels’ and their relations to imperialism. Provide suitable arguments

4. Explore in detail how Foucault establishes a connection between power, science and sexuality. Comment on the significance of such a connection.

**SECTION C**

**Read the passage given below:**

[Edward Said’s *Orientalism]*,… the 1978 book of the same name explores the ways Western experts, or “Orientalists”, have come to understand and represent the Middle East.

Said analyses a vast, organised body of knowledge on the Middle East, starting with [Napoléon’s 1798 invasion of Egypt](https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-the-Pyramids-Egyptian-history), for which a legion of scholars, writers and scientists were enlisted to collect as much information about Egypt as they could. Orientalism peels back the supposedly neutral veneer of scientific interest and discovery attached to such projects.

Said shows how Orientalist writings and ideologies actively shape the world they describe, and how they perpetuate views of Middle Eastern people as inferior, subservient, and in need of saving. As a result, these often racist or romanticised stereotypes create a worldview that justifies Western colonialism and imperialism. According to Said, the Orient is a “semi-mythical construct” imposed on a set of countries east of Europe. While the term has been used to describe countries in East and South Asia, Said mainly focuses on how it’s used in relation to [Southwest Asia and North Africa](https://aapirc.ucsc.edu/swana/what-is-swana.html), or the Middle East.

Indeed, the Orient doesn’t have a stable set of geographical bounds. Orientalists might write about countries as varied as Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq with little distinction. Consequently, the geographical vagueness of “the Orient” works to conflate a vast and diverse array of landscapes, peoples and cultures into a single, unchanging unit.

Orientalists often describe parts of Southwest Asia and North Africa with the intention of representing the *entire* Orient, and a wide range of moral attitudes, religions, languages, cultures and political structures are folded into one.

As such, the idea of the Orient functions more as an abstract antithesis the West defines itself against than as an accurate descriptor of a region.

(Extracted from Hibri, Cyma “Edward Said’s Groundbreaking Book Explained” *The Conversation* Feb 12 2023)

**III.A. Answer any ONE of the following questions in about 5 sentences:**

**(1x5=5)**

5. From your reading of Edward Said’s work in class, do you agree with the view that the Orientalists describe the Orient as “inferior, subservient and in need of saving”? Give reasons for your answer

6. Explain using your reading in class how the Orient is an “abstract antithesis” of the West. Provide an example to explain your ideas

**SECTION D**

7. According to Wimsatt and Beardsley, what is “intentional fallacy”? Do you consider their ideas useful when you extrapolate them to social media texts or to works of cooperative authorship such as films, or television series? **Answer in about 150-200 words. (10 marks)**