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Register Number:

DATE: 22-04-2017

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

**IV Semester MA (English)**

**EN: 0214 Cultural Studies: An Introduction**

**Semester Examination April 2017**

**Time: 2 ½ hours** **Max Marks: 70**

**SECTION A**

**Answer any ONE of the following:**  **(1x15=15)**

1. Explore in detail the birth and development of the project and practice of Cultural Studies in Britain and comment on its impact for critical practice in art and literature. Substantiate using your reading across this semester.
2. Explain the proposition “culture is ordinary” as argued by Raymond Williams and show how this proposition places the debate between “high” and “low” culture under severe scrutiny. Use suitable illustrations to substantiate your ideas.

**SECTION B**

**Answer any THREE of the following:** **(3x15=45)**

1. Show how Bourdieu explains the interrelations between ‘social class’ and ‘aesthetic taste’. Comment on the role that these inter-relations play in contemporary evaluations of art and literature.
2. Explain the ideas of “aura”, “cult” and “exhibition” with regard to ‘Film’ as represented by Walter Benjamin. Show how his theorising of such concepts affects contemporary thinking about ‘art and culture’
3. What is the “Culture Industry”? Show how Adorno and Horkheimer explain that such an industry aims at “mass deception”. Use appropriate illustrations to substantiate your perspective.
4. Explain the inter-connections between “mass media” and “visual culture”. Comment on the impact such inter-relations have on the politics of consumption
5. Do you think ‘theories of hegemony’ are related to ‘ideas of discourse’? What is your point of view? Provide suitable arguments to substantiate your point of view.

**SECTION C**

**Write a short essay on any ONE of the following (1x10=10)**

1. Ideology
2. Queer

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