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Register Number:

DATE: 21-04-2017

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

**End Semester Examination - APRIL2017**

**MA ENGLISH - II Semester**

**EN 8514: Reading and Writing II**

**TIME: 2 1/2 hours MARKS: 70**

**I. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions: (2x15=30)**

1. Explain the similarities and differences between the two critical strategies of ‘cultural materialism’ and ‘new historicism’. Comment on each one’s value for literary and cultural studies today.
2. Some people argue that ‘writing’, academic or otherwise, is completely dependent on ‘reading’, as a way of interpreting both texts and their worlds. Others believe that ‘reading’ and ‘writing’ are two different and separate processes, one belonging to ‘audience reception’ and the other, to ‘writer production’. What is your position in relation to the above propositions? Which stance do you privilege? Justify your point of view using suitable illustrations from your reading.
3. What are the main concerns of feminist literary theory and criticism? Explain with reference to the readings you have done this semester.

**II. Answer ANY THREE of the following questions: (3x10=30)**

1. Based on your understanding of the ten tenets of liberal humanism, explain why liberal humanism is referred to as the theory that came before ‘theory’.
2. In their essay “The Intentional Fallacy" Wimsatt and Beardsley argue that "the design or intention of the author is neither available nor desirable as a standard for judging the success of a work of literary art." Comment on their stance using examples from your reading.
3. Comment on how caste and gender converge to form ideologies of oppression and suppression. Using your reading illustrate how this convergence unfolds in literary and non- literary texts.

EN-8514-A-17

1. Explain how the personal essay is similar to and different from the reflective essay drawing from the readings that you have done this semester.
2. Do you consider ‘race’ as a construct? Do you think ‘race’ overlaps with ‘ethnicity’ as practice? What is your point of view? Argue your point of view using suitable illustrations from your readings.

**III. Respond to following excerpt using one of the approaches you have studied this semester. (10 marks)**

The Secret of the Machines

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

We were taken from the ore-bed and the mine,

We were melted in the furnace and the pit—

We were cast and wrought and hammered to design,

We were cut and filed and tooled and gauged to fit.

Some water, coal, and oil is all we ask,

And a thousandth of an inch to give us play:

And now, if you will set us to our task,

We will serve you four and twenty hours a day!

...

Do you wish to make the mountains bare their head

And lay their new-cut forests at your feet?

Do you want to turn a river in its bed,

Or plant a barren wilderness with wheat?

...

It is easy! Give us dynamite and drills!

Watch the iron-shouldered rocks lie down and quake

As the thirsty desert-level floods and fills,

And the valley we have dammed becomes a lake.

But remember, please, the Law by which we live,

We are not built to comprehend a lie,

We can neither love nor pity nor forgive.

If you make a slip in handling us you die!

We are greater than the Peoples or the Kings—

Be humble, as you crawl beneath our rods!-

Our touch can alter all created things,

We are everything on earth—except The Gods!

Though our smoke may hide the Heavens from your eyes,

It will vanish and the stars will shine again,

Because, for all our power and weight and size,

We are nothing more than children of your brain!

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