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6 SEM TDC DSE ENG (CBCS) 1 (H/NH)

2023

(May/June)

ENGLISH

(Discipline Specific Elective)

(For Honours and Non-Honours)

Paper : DSE-1

(Literary Theory)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

UNIT—I

(Marxism)

1. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

(a) What are the ideological state apparatuses? How do these operate?

(b) What, according to Althusser, is the function of the state? What is the distinction between state power and state apparatus?

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(2)

(c) "All men are intellectuals, one could therefore say : but not all men have in society the function of intellectuals." Elaborate with special reference to the distinction Gramsci makes between traditional and organic intellectuals.

2. Answer briefly any one of the following questions :

5

(a) How are the conditions of production maintained? What factors are needed for that maintenance?

(b) "School is the instrument through which intellectuals of various levels are elaborated." Discuss.

(c) Write a note on Gramsci's notion of hegemony.

UNIT—II

(Feminism)

3. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

(a) *When the Goods Get Together* establishes a strong set of connections between a phallogentric economy of desire and an economic model of trade and exchange. Explain and comment on the significance of this connection between sexuality and commerce.

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(3)

(b) How, according to Irigaray, does 'female homosexuality' usually get interpreted and/or contained within a phallogentric sexual economy?

(c) How does Showalter respond to Toril Moi's criticism of her *A Literature of Their Own*?

4. Answer briefly any one of the following questions :

5

(a) Discuss after Irigaray how the phallogentric system views women as commodities or 'objects of exchange'.

(b) Write a short note on Showalter's concept of 'New Women'.

(c) How does Showalter present 'the Literary History and the Canon' in *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited*?

UNIT—III

(Post-structuralism)

5. Answer any one of the following questions : 15

(a) According to Derrida, Levi-Strauss's study of myths never shies away from self-criticism and frequently declares the limits of its own analytic project. However, "one no less perceives in his work a short of ethic of presence, an ethic of nostalgia for origins". Discuss.

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(4)

- (b) To what extent does Derrida's essay, *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences* bring out the major theoretical principles of deconstruction?
- (c) How does Foucault discuss the relationship between truth, power and the position of the intellectual in society?
6. Answer briefly any one of the following questions :
- (a) Write a short note on the idea of 'play' as developed by Derrida.
- (b) According to Foucault, Freud's concept of repression is based on an inadequate understanding of power. Discuss.
- (c) How does Foucault contrast the 'specific intellectual' with the 'universal intellectual'? Why would the former be more aware?

UNIT—IV

(Post-colonial Studies)

7. Answer any one of the following questions : 15
- (a) According to Gandhi, "The foundation that Macaulay laid on education has enslaved us." Discuss the statement as a starting point for Gandhi's views on education as elaborated in *Hind Swaraj*.

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(5)

- (b) How does Said expose the method by which the West has not only socially structured and produced the Orient but also controlled and managed it through a hegemony of power relations? Discuss.
- (c) According to Aijaz Ahmad, what are some of the institutional, historical and linguistic difficulties in assuming that Indian Literature is an always already existent category? Comment critically.
8. Answer briefly any one of the following questions : 5
- (a) How does Gandhi define Swaraj?
- (b) Write a short note on Said's idea of Orientalism.
- (c) Trace after Aijaz Ahmad the main areas that require institutional intervention so that 'Indian Literature' as a category may be adequately theorized.

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