

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2016

M.A. ENGLISH

[Field of Study Code : ENGM (215)]

*Time Allowed : 3 hours**Maximum Marks : 100*

Question No. 1 is compulsory carrying **40** marks.
Answer **two** other questions carrying **30** marks each.

1. Write your critical response to the following poem by Sylvia Plath, addressing its title, form and content :

Words

Axes
After whose stroke the wood rings,
And the echoes!
Echoes traveling
Off from the center like horses.

The sap
Wells like tears, like the
Water striving
To re-establish its mirror
Over the rock

That drops and turns,
A white skull,
Eaten by weedy greens.
Years later I
Encounter them on the road ...

Words dry and riderless,
The indefatigable hoof-taps.
While
From the bottom of the pool, fixed stars
Govern a life.

2. (a) What is Cultural Studies? How has it affected our conceptions of literary value?

Or

- (b) Choose at least two prominent Indian texts that you consider a part of 'World Literature'. Explain the reasons for your choices as well as what you mean by 'World Literature'.

3. (a) Do you think that contemporary Indian novels in English and in Indian languages show important difference in their approach to social reality? Respond with the help of examples.

Or

- (b) Pick a significant literary work that you have read in your mother tongue or in an Indian language other than English. Compare it with an Indian English text of similar theme or form, indicating what you have learned about the nature of Indian English literature from such a comparison.

4. (a) What is the fundamental argument that Jean-Francois Lyotard advances in his *The Postmodern Condition*? Evaluate its ethico-political implications for our time.

Or

- (b) Is 'deconstruction' fundamentally a playful negative operation aiming at dismantling any possibility of stable meaning, or is it rather essentially an affirmative gesture that has important ethico-political consequences for us? Give a reasoned answer.

5. (a) Evaluate the contribution of Dalit studies to literary studies.

Or

- (b) Critically examine any two contemporary texts using the interpretive framework of the theory of *Rasa*.

6. (a) How does the concept of race feature in sixteenth and seventeenth century England? Discuss the role of race in a play of your choice belonging to the period.

Or

- (b) Discuss the characteristics of any *one* of the following literary forms, using textual examples :

(i) Epistolary Novel

(ii) Ode

(iii) Sentimental Comedy

7. Critically examine any *two* of the following texts in order to show how they represent life, literature and thought of their times :

- (a) *The Rape of the Lock*
- (b) *Middlemarch : A Study of Provincial Life*
- (c) *Gulliver's Travels*
- (d) *Othello*
- (e) *Sons and Lovers*
- (f) *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*

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