

Maulana Azad National Urdu University
Programme: **M.A. English**
III Semester Examinations, November/December-2024

Paper Title: **Literary Criticism and Theory-I**
Time: **3 Hours**

Paper Code: **MAEN301CCT**
Total Marks: **70**

Note : This question paper consists of (3) parts : Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part–A contains (10) compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries (1) mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part-B contains (8) questions of which students are supposed to answer (5) questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains (5) questions of which students are supposed to answer (3) questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries (10) marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer all questions.

i. In Plato's "The Republic," how does the concept of the Ideal Form relate to the world of art and imitation?

- A) The Ideal Form is the ultimate reality, and art is a mere shadow of it.
- B) Art can help us ascend to the realm of the Forms.
- C) Art is a dangerous distraction that can lead to moral decay.
- D) Art is a necessary tool for political education.

ii. According to Aristotle's "Poetics," what is the purpose of tragedy?

- A) To evoke pity and fear in the audience.
- B) To provide moral instruction.
- C) To entertain the masses.
- D) To celebrate the human spirit.

iii. How does Thomas Aquinas reconcile the concept of divine truth with artistic creativity?

- A) Art is a divine gift and artists are inspired by God.
- B) Art can be a tool for religious education and devotion.
- C) Art is inherently sinful and should be avoided.
- D) Art is a neutral activity that has no moral significance.

iv. What is Sir Philip Sidney's main argument in defence of poetry?

- A) Poetry is a superior form of knowledge to history and philosophy.
- B) Poetry can inspire virtuous behaviour.
- C) Poetry can provide solace and comfort in times of hardship.
- D) All of the above.

v. How does Samuel Johnson view Shakespeare's genius?

- A) Shakespeare's genius is inexplicable and supernatural.
- B) Shakespeare's genius lies in his ability to understand human nature.
- C) Shakespeare's genius is a product of his historical context.
- D) Shakespeare's genius is overrated and his plays are flawed.

vi. In Addison's essay "True and False Wit," which of the following is NOT considered a characteristic of true wit?

- A) Resemblance
- B) Surprise
- C) Rhyme and metre
- D) Congruity

vii. How does Coleridge differentiate between "fancy" and "secondary imagination"?

- A) Fancy is creative, while secondary imagination is merely associative.
- B) Fancy is a lower faculty, while secondary imagination is a higher faculty.
- C) Fancy is conscious, while secondary imagination is unconscious.
- D) Fancy is rational, while secondary imagination is intuitive.

- viii. According to Oscar Wilde, what is the relationship between art and morality?
- A) Art should be morally instructive. B) Art should be morally uplifting.
C) Art should be morally neutral. D) Art should be morally subversive.
- ix. How does Marxist literary criticism analyse literary texts?
- A) By focusing on the psychological motivations of the author.
B) By examining the formal elements of the text.
C) By considering the social and economic context of the text.
D) By exploring the universal themes and archetypes present in the text.
- x. What is the primary role of the critic, according to Matthew Arnold?
- A) To promote a specific political or social agenda.
B) To defend traditional values and beliefs.
C) To disseminate the best that has been thought and known.
D) To entertain the reader with witty commentary.

Part-B

2. Write a short note on Plato's critique of mimesis.
3. Discuss Aristotle's concept of catharsis in tragedy.
4. Analyse Sidney's defence of poetry in "An Apology for Poetry."
5. Compare English and classical drama in Dryden's view.
6. Differentiate between true and false wit according to Addison.
7. Explain Wordsworth's use of simple language in "Lyrical Ballads."
8. Compare primary and secondary imagination in Coleridge's theory.
9. Discuss Arnold's concept of the "best that has been thought and said."

Part-C

10. How has the concept of literature and criticism evolved from Plato to Wilde? Discuss.
11. What is the role of the poet and critic in literary history? Give reference to essays studied in the course.
12. How does Wordsworth's use of simple language in "Lyrical Ballads" differ from Coleridge's more advocacy for more complex style?
13. Discuss the influence of Marxist theory on literary criticism.
14. Compare and contrast Enlightenment and Romantic views on literature, focusing on Addison, Wollstonecraft, Wordsworth, and Coleridge.
