

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: M.A. (English)

IV Semester Examination, April/May 2026

Course Title: **Literary Theory and Criticism - II**

Course Code: **MAEN401CCT**

Time: **3 hours**

Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of three 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 **08** questions, of which students are supposed to answer **05** questions. Answer a descriptive question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 04 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains **05** questions, of which students are supposed to answer **03** questions only. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part A

1. Answer all the following questions:

- i. The concept of the Theory of Signs was propounded by _____.
a. T.S. Eliot b. I.A. Richards c. Ferdinand de Saussure d. Stephen Greenblatt
- ii. How many types of ambiguity does William Empson propose?
a. Five b. Seven c. Six d. Nine
- iii. Who authored the essay "The Language of Paradox"?
a. Cleanth Brooks b. Toni Morrison c. Jacques Derrida d. John Donne
- iv. Match the following:
a. I.A. RichardsI. New Criticism b. Roland Barthes II. Death of the Author
c. StructuralismIII. Ferdinand de Saussure d. New HistoricismIV. Stephen Greenblatt

a) A-III; B-IV; C-I; D-II
b) A-I; B-II; C-III; D-IV
c) A-II; B-I; C-IV; D-III
d) A- IV; B-III; C-II; D-I
- v. Match the following
a. The Typology of Detective Fiction ...I. Gayatri C. Spivak
b. Marxism and Literature ...II. Tzvetan Todorov
c. Can the Subaltern SpeakIII. Raymond Williams
a) A-III; B-I; C-II
b) A-II; B-III; C-I
c) A-I; B-II; C-III
d) None of the above
- vi. Which of the following statement is true with reference to Raymond Williams' concept of base and superstructure?
a. Base is not just economic or static.
b. Base is dynamic and includes human activity.
c. The Superstructure is not only determined by the economic base, it interacts with it.
d. All are correct
- vii. Spivak defines the 'wordling' of the Third World as:
a. A spontaneous overflow of emotions
b. The recovery and translation of rich western curricula.
c. The imperialist project of representing and mapping colonized territories as part of the colonizer's social mission.
d. The process of bringing civilization to the Third World.

- viii. What is Toni Morrison's stance on the political nature of art?
 - a. She considers all art as political harangue.
 - b. She believes that the best art is political and must be beautiful at the same time.
 - c. She argues that art should always remain private and not be political.
 - d. She contends that art and life annihilate each other politically.
- ix. What does Derrida's notion of Binary opposition focus on?
 - a. Opposition between cultures and life
 - b. Mathematical structures of meaning
 - c. Hierarchical opposites within language and meaning
 - d. Relationship between science and language.
- x. Which of the following is authored by Talal Asad?
 - a. *Tradition and the Individual Talent*
 - b. *The Concept of Cultural Translation in British Social Anthropology*
 - c. *Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism*
 - d. *The Way of the World*

Part B

- 2. Explain in brief T.S. Eliot's contribution to literary theory and criticism.
- 3. Differentiate between intentional fallacy and affective fallacy.
- 4. Attempt a short explanation of sign, signifier, and the signified with a diagram.
- 5. Spivak writes, "The role of literature in the production of cultural representation should not be ignored." Explain in brief.
- 6. Analyze in brief the significance of Post-Structuralism in literary theory.
- 7. Summarize Derrida's main argument in "Structure, Sign and Play in the History of the Human Sciences."
- 8. Examine in brief, Raymond Williams' contribution with specific reference to *Marxism and Literature*.
- 9. Write a short note on the emergence of the novel as described in "Rootedness: The Ancestor as Foundation."

Part C

- 10. Examine in detail the principles of New Criticism laying down the contribution of I.A. Richards and Cleanth Brooks.
- 11. Discuss Structuralism as a theory drawing illustrations from any prescribed text.
- 12. What is feminism as a literary theory? Examine in detail the main phases of feminism drawing illustrations from any prescribed text.
- 13. Explain in detail the contribution of Edward Said, Homi Bhaba and Gayatri C. Spivak to Postcolonialism.
- 14. What is your understanding of New Historicism? Attempt a critique clearly laying down the advantages and limitations of the New Historicist perspective.
