

B.A. (Honours) Examinations, 2024

English

Semester V (CBCS)

DSE-2

Science Fiction and Detective Literature

For regular and back candidates

Time **3 hours**

Full marks **60**

Questions are of equal value

Answer **Question 1** and **any three** questions

1. (a) Detective fiction injects crime and criminality into the domestic space. Do you agree? Discuss.

or,

(b) Critically analyse the importance of the narrator in detective fiction.

2. Do you think that *The Moonstone* reveals qualities found in sensational fiction rather than detective fiction? Discuss critically.

3. (a) Discuss how Conan Doyle uses topographical imagination as atmosphere in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

or,

(b) Comment on the centrality of the hound in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

4. (a) "The detective aspires to be a modern knight in a damaged society". Critically evaluate this statement in the context of *The Big Sleep*.

or,

(b) *The Big Sleep* deals with depravity and double dealing throughout the novel with Philip Marlowe as probably the only ideal character. Discuss critically.

5. Critically analyse "The Inquisitor" as a text with a thin line demarcating the detective from the criminal.

6. In "Byomkesh and Barada" reason and science triumph over superstition and religious beliefs. Comment critically.

BA Honours in English 2024

Semester V

[DSE-I] – Literary Criticism

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Answer *any four (4)* questions.

(4×15=60)

1. Evaluate Wordsworth's "Preface" to the *Lyrical Ballads* as a manifesto for Romantic aesthetics.
2. Critically comment on the debate between Wordsworth and Coleridge regarding imagination.
3. Comment on Woolf's analysis of the state of modern fiction in her essay "Modern Fiction".
4. Discuss Eliot's views on the relationship between the individual poet and tradition in the essay "Tradition and Individual Talent".
5. Write an essay on I. A. Richards' classification of the 'scientific use of language' and the 'emotive use of language' as developed in *Principles of Literary Criticism*.
6. How does Cleanth Brooks, in *The Well Wrought Urn*, establish that "the language of poetry is the language of paradox." Substantiate your answer with reference to the text.
7. Do you think all writing by women challenges patriarchal positions on gender roles? Substantiate.

BA (Honours) Examination, 2024
English
Semester: V

Paper: CC-12
British Literature: The Early 20th Century

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer **any three** from the rest.

1. a) Modernism had a strong Romantic streak. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.

Or

- b) Why is the intertextual impulse central to the Modernist aesthetics? Discuss with reference to the texts in your syllabus.

2. "*Heart of Darkness* depicts the modern Western world doomed to imminent ruin—morally, if not materially." Do you agree? Discuss.
3. Discuss James Joyce's experiments with form and language in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.
4. Write a critical note on the treatment of myth in Yeats' poetry with reference to the poems you have studied.
5. Critically comment on TS Eliot's use of images with suitable references from the poems you have read.
6. How does *Look Back in Anger* capture the post-World War II crises in Britain? Discuss in detail.

BA Honours Examination 2024

English Semester V

CC 11 Women's Writing

Answer Question 1 and any three from the rest

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

1a) Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* is rooted in eighteenth century Discourse of Rights. Comment with reference to chapter two of the text.

or

1b) Mary Wollstonecraft makes a plea for a system of education that will allow women to challenge the feminine notion of virtue. Would you agree? Substantiate.

2a) Rasasundari Devi's *Amar Jibon* is a testimony to a woman's extraordinary will to teach herself to read and write against all odds. Comment with reference to the text.

or

2b). How does young Satyabati challenge patriarchal strictures against women's learning in *The First Promise*? Respond with reference to the text.

3. "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a study in the gendering of spaces, both through control and subversion. Comment with reference to the text.

4. How does Ismat Chughtai re-interpret mythology in the context of the dynamics of class, caste and gender in modern Indian society in "A Pair of Hands"? Discuss with suitable textual references.

5a) Would you qualify Sylvia Plath's exploration of art, history and domesticity in "The Disquieting Muses" as feminist? Substantiate your answer.

Or

5b) The poems by Emily Dickinson in your syllabus reveal a woman's struggle with institutions and the idea of the institution. Analyse.

6. Eunice de Souza's "Advice to Women" is a masterpiece of irony. Would you agree? Comment critically.

BA (Honours) Examination 2023
Semester – V
English

Paper: DSE 2:
Science Fiction & Detective Literature

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer Question No. 1 and *any three* from the rest.

1. (a) The detective is often detached from the social milieu that he investigates. Discuss with reference to the texts prescribed in your syllabus.

Or,

(b) England, United States and Bengal are the settings of the texts prescribed in your syllabus. How do these various social backdrops impact the narratives? Critically discuss.

2. Discuss critically the significance of multiple narrators in *The Moonstone*.

3. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* pits myth against reason. Critically discuss.

4. Would you consider the detective in *The Big Sleep* as a modern knight? Discuss with suitable references to the text.

5. Comment on the representation of the middle-class criminal in the Byomkesh stories included in your syllabus.

6. The detective imposes order on a chaotic society. Would you agree? Answer with reference to the Byomkesh Bakshi stories.

BA Honours Examination 2023

Semester V

English

DSE-I: Literary Criticism

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Answer *any four (4)* questions.

1. How do you think the "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* sets the parameters for Romanticism in English poetry? Discuss critically.
2. Write an essay on Coleridge's theory of imagination as developed in *Biographia Literaria*.
3. "Life is not a series of gig lamps symmetrically arranged; life is a luminous halo, a semi-transparent envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end." Discuss the importance of this statement concerning what Woolf understands as 'modern fiction.'
4. "The progress of an artist is a continual self-sacrifice, a continual extinction of personality." Analyse the full significance of the observation.
5. In what ways is I. A. Richards' *Principles of Literary Criticism* a fundamental work of Western literary criticism?
6. Why does Cleanth Brooks think that "there is a sense in which paradox is the language appropriate and inevitable to poetry"?
7. Trace the relationship between radical feminism and the gendering of literary criticism that emerged in the 1960s/1970s US academia.

B.A. (Honours) Examination 2023

Semester V (CBCS)

English

Paper: CC-12 (British Literature: The Early 20th Century)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Question no. 1 is compulsory; choose *any three* from the rest.

1. a) Experiments with form is more important than thematic novelty in modernist aesthetics. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.
Or
b) Metropolitan middle-class consciousness is central to modernism. Discuss the validity of this position with reference to the texts in your syllabus.
2. Critically comment on the experimental narrative technique in *Heart of Darkness*.
3. The protagonist's oscillation between iconoclasm and submission to dominant discourses in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is reflective of a larger modernist ambivalence. How far would you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
4. In his poetry, Yeats examined the idea of immortality with regard to a variety of subjects. Discuss critically with illustrations.
5. What features of modernist poetry do you find in Eliot's poems? Discuss with suitable references.
6. Critically comment on the significance of the setting of *Look Back in Anger*.

BA (Honours) Examination 2023
Semester – V
English

Paper: CC 11 (Women's Writing)

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 60

Questions are of equal value

Answer Question No. 1 and *any three* from the rest.

1. a) Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* makes a case for equal education of men and women as the basis for equal rights of the genders. Comment critically.
Or
b) The issue of female education was hotly debated in nineteenth century Bengal. Would you agree? Comment critically.
2. Rashasundari's *Amar Jibon* draws attention to the difficulty of women teaching themselves to read and write. Comment.
3. Would you agree that the rebellious character of Satyabati in *The First Promise* makes her uniquely suited as a young woman to claim literacy and later education in the most inclusive sense?
4. "The Yellow Wallpaper" could only have been written in the first person. Would you agree? Justify your response.
- 5 a) Womanhood, as Emily Dickinson sees it, is an experience defined in relation to space as well as time. Explain with reference to the poems you have studied.
Or
b) Discuss the significance of Plath's title for the poem "Lady Lazarus".
6. a) Discuss the basic women's issues raised by Eunice de Souza in the poems prescribed for you.
Or
b) Comment on the title of Ismat Chughtai's "The Eternal Vine."

BA Honours Examination 2022

Semester V

[DSE-I] – Literary Criticism

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

For Regular and Back Candidates

Questions are of equal value. Answer *any four (4)* questions.

1. Critically analyse "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* as a Romantic manifesto.
2. Critically comment on Coleridge's distinction between Primary and Secondary Imagination.
3. "In contrast with those whom we have called materialists, Mr Joyce is spiritual." Bring out the full significance of Virginia Woolf's observation in the essay 'Modern Fiction.'
4. "... the past should be altered by the present as much as the present is directed by the past..." Analyse the importance of the comment vis-à-vis T S Eliot's theorisations of 'tradition' and 'individual talent'.
5. Write an essay on I. A. Richards' contribution to the field of literary with reference to the sections from *Principles of Literary Criticism* included in your syllabus.
6. Why does Cleanth Brooks, in *The Well Wrought Urn*, make the observation, "... most of our difficulties in criticism are rooted in the heresy of paraphrase."? Elucidate.
7. Is it possible to say that Woolf engages with gynocriticism in *A Room of One's Own*? Write with reference to either Chapter 4 or Chapter 5.

BA (Honours) Examination 2022
Semester: V
English
CC-12 (British Literature: The early Twentieth Century)

Time: Three (3) hours

Full Marks: 60

For Regular and Back Candidates

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer *any three* from the rest

1a) A novel discourse of reality and its representation is central to the modernist aesthetics. Discuss critically.

Or

b) We should be wary of universalising the modernist concerns, for they are products of a specific socio-cultural milieu. How far would you agree?

2 "*Heart of Darkness* is a comment on the vilest scramble for loot that ever disfigured the history of human conscience and geographical exploration." Do you agree? Discuss.

3. How does James Joyce combine the Romantic impulse with the Modernist one in his novel in your syllabus? Discuss critically.
4. How does the poetry of W. B. Yeats deploy the mythical method to engage with contemporary history? Discuss with reference to the poems in your syllabus.
5. The early T. S. Eliot captures the crises in the European metropolitan middle class consciousness. How far would you agree? Discuss critically.
6. What dramatic purpose is served by the symbols that Osborne uses in *Look Back in Anger*? Discuss critically.

BA (Honours) Examination 2022
Semester V
English
CC-11 (Women's Writing)

Time: Three (3) hours

Full Marks: 60

For Regular and Back Candidates

Questions are of equal value

Question 1 is compulsory. Answer *any three* from the rest

1a) Comment on how women's education emerged as the most important agenda of women's emancipation in late 18th Century England

Or

b) Write a brief note on Wollstonecraft's notion of a "double standard of virtues" prevalent in society and how that contributed to the degradation of women.

2 a) In *First Promise* (*Pratham Pratisruiti*) Satyabati's ability to read and write are linked to her nature which rebels against all conventional strictures against women. Do you agree? Substantiate.

Or

2b) Rasasundari's struggle to become *jita-kshara* (victorious over words) has its roots in her deeply devotional nature.

3 How does Charlotte Perkins Gilman transform the wallpaper in the room to a symbol of the oppressive nature of Victorian domestic ideals? Write with reference to "The Yellow Wallpaper."

4 There is something fantastic in the suggestion that a woman who retains her her beauty and youthfulness can become problematic for patriarchy. Comment with reference to Ismat Chughtai's story "Eternal Vine" (*Amar Bel*)

5. Critically comment on the didactic elements in Eunice D'Souza's poetry.

6. Sylvia Plath uses the trope of fairy tale in her poems to criticise patriarchal norms.

7. Women rebelling against patriarchy is a common theme in many of the texts in the syllabus. Would you agree? Write with reference to any three writers.

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2019
Semester-V (CBCS)
English
Discipline Specific Elective: DSE-2
(Science Fiction & Detective Literature)

Time: 3 Hours

Full marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Answer Question No. 1 and *any three* from the following.

1. (a) Detective fiction exposes the seedy underbelly of society. Discuss with reference to the texts in your syllabus.

OR,

(b) How does hardboiled detective fiction differ from detective fiction that precedes it? Highlight the socio-economic underpinnings of this new subgenre of detective fiction.

2. Contested identities play a major role in *The Woman in White*. Discuss.

3. Analyse the use of myth, reason and the supernatural in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

4. *The Big Sleep* introduces a new kind of anti-hero detective who battles organised crime. Analyse.

5. (a) How does Saradindu indigenise the figure of the detective in Byomkesh Bakshi? Analyse with reference to the two stories in your syllabus.

OR,

(b) Do you see any thematic dichotomy between 'Satyanweshi' and 'Byomkesh O Boroda'? Elucidate.

6. Compare and contrast any two detectives in your syllabus.

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2019
Semester-V (CBCS)
English
Discipline Specific Elective: DSE-1
(Literary Criticism)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Answer *any four (4)* questions.

1. Wordsworth's "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* is one of the major theoretical texts of the Romantic Movement. Do you agree? Discuss.
 2. Examine Coleridge's idea of the organic unity of poetry as discussed in Chapter XIV of *Biographia Literaria*.
 3. Bring out the full significance of the comment made in the essay "Modern Fiction", "From all sides they come, an incessant shower of innumerable atoms; and as they fall, as they shape themselves into the life of Monday or Tuesday, the accent falls differently from of old..."
 4. "Poetry is not a turning loose of emotion, but an escape from emotion; it is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality." Analyse.
 5. Write an essay on the differences between "scientific" and "emotive" uses of language as developed by I. A. Richards in *Principles of Literary Criticism*.
 6. "... the paraphrase is not the real core of meaning which constitutes the essence of the poem." Discuss.
 7. One major contribution of feminist criticism is the focus on writing by women. Do you agree? Elucidate.
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B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2019

Semester-V

English

Course: H-11 (Core)

(Introduction to Theory)

(For Back Candidates only)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Question Number 1 is compulsory. Answer *any three* from the rest.

1. Select one text (poem/cinema/short story/Facebook-WhatsApp-Twitter/ novel/ essay/TV commercial/web series/public event etc.) and analyse it with the position of ***any one*** of the theoretical schools taught in your course.
2. a) Why, for a student of literature, do you think it has become an imperative to become acquainted with 'theory' and its developments that have taken place in recent times? Discuss.

Or

- b) Write an essay on how ideas of Ferdinand de Saussure have brought about revolutionary changes in the way we study language.
3. a) Discuss, in brief, Propp's techniques of analysis of narratives vis-à-vis folktales.

Or

- b) Why do you think Barthes' essay "Death of the Author" is considered by many as an important text in the world of theory?
4. a) Write an essay on Foucault's introduction of his concept 'author function' in his essay "What is an Author?"

Or

- b) Why, do you think, Derrida's essay "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of Human Sciences" is often considered a major signpost in theory's journey from structuralism to deconstruction? Discuss.
5. Freud's essay "Creative Writer and Daydreaming" helps us to understand how psychoanalysis can be used in the study of artistic endeavours. Do you agree? Discuss.
6. a) Consider *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* as a major liberal feminist text.

Or

- b) Discuss how feminist positions can help us to see the dynamics of literary texts in a new light.

B.A. (Honours) Examination 2019
Semester - V (CBCS)
English
Course: CC-11
(Women's Writing)

Time: 3 hours

Full Marks: 60

Questions are of equal value.

Answer question 1 and any three from the rest.

1. a) Comment on the significance of female education in the project of women's emancipation and autonomy. Write with reference to the selections from Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* and Rashasundari Devi's *Amar Jibon* (My Life)
or
b) Would you agree that Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* is a liberal feminist text? Elucidate.
 2. a) Ashapurna Devi's novel *Pratham Pratisruti* (*The First Promise*) is a feminist *bildungsroman*. Do you agree? Comment critically.
or
b) Would you agree that *Pratham Pratisruti* (*The First Promise*) contains moving accounts of the condition of Bengali widows in patriarchy during colonial modernity? Elucidate.
 3. a) 'The Yellow Wallpaper' reveals how the institutions of marriage and medicine together stifle a women's intellectual life. Discuss.
or
b) In 'The Eternal Vine' Ismat Chughtai presents society's anxiety about women's freedom and sexuality. Discuss.
 4. Discuss the significance of the title of Sylvia Plath's poem 'Lady Lazarus.'
 5. a) The thematic concerns and stylistic modes of women's poetry can be marked as distinctive. Do you think this applies to the poems by Emily Dickinson and Eunice de Souza that you have read? Elucidate.
or
b) Would you agree that Kabita Sinha's 'Iswarke Eve' (Eve to God) is an instance of a conscious feminist strategy of overturning patriarchal myths? Justify.
 6. Comment critically on the story of 'Shakespeare's sister' in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*.
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