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63/1 (SEM-5) DSE1/ENGHE5016

2023

ENGLISH

Paper : ENGHE5016

(Literary Theory)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : Three hours

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

1. Choose the correct answer : ***(any six)***

1×6=6

(a) According to Louis Althusser every social formation arises from a dominant mode of

(i) Nationalism

(ii) Production

(iii) Legal System

(iv) Individuals

Contd.

- (b) In which area did Elaine Showalter begin to do her research ?
- (i) Victorian women writers
 - (ii) Feminist
 - (iii) Modern women writers
 - (iv) Post-colonialism
- (c) Derrida's essay, *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science*, opens with a statement made by a French thinker
- (i) Jacques Rousseau
 - (ii) Rene Descartes
 - (iii) Claude Levi-Strauss
 - (iv) Montaigne
- (d) Which of the following is not authored by Michel Foucault ?
- (i) *Madness and Civilisation*
 - (ii) *The Order of Things*
 - (iii) *Discipline and Punish*
 - (iv) *Speech and Phenomena*

- (e) What does Edward Said mean by 'the Orient' in the context of 'Orientalism' ?
- (i) Eastern philosophy
 - (ii) Eastern art and culture
 - (iii) A constructed and imagined entity representing the East
 - (iv) The geographical region of Asia
- (f) Passive resistance is a method of securing rights by
- (i) Personal suffering
 - (ii) Body force
 - (iii) Obeying laws
 - (iv) Being religious
- (g) What is the main focus of Elaine Showalter's essay, *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited* ?
- (i) Analyzing the works of prominent feminist authors
 - (ii) Reflecting on the history and impact of feminist literary criticism
 - (iii) Exploring the evolution of literature written by women
 - (iv) Examining the role of male authors in feminist literature

(h) "Ideology is the system of the ideas and representations which dominate the mind of a man and a social group."

The statement is made by

- (i) Michel Foucault
- (ii) Louis Althusser
- (iii) Jacques Derrida
- (iv) Karl Marx

(i) According to Foucault, how does power function in relation to knowledge and truth?

- (i) Power is entirely separate from knowledge and truth
- (ii) Power is used to suppress knowledge and truth
- (iii) Power produces and shapes knowledge and truth
- (iv) Knowledge and truth have no impact on power

(j) What does 'deconstruction', according to Derrida, seek to do in relation to the binary oppositions found in structuralist thought?

- (i) Criticise them
- (ii) Affirm their stability
- (iii) Expose their instability
- (iv) Ignore them

2. Answer the following questions : **(any five)**
2×5=10

- (a) What does Gramsci mean by *homo faber* and *homo sapiens*?
- (b) Mention *any two* constituent parts of the ideological state apparatus.
- (c) Why does Showalter challenge the idea of 'literary canon' in her essay?
- (d) How does Foucault define 'repression'?
- (e) What does Derrida mean by 'Transcendental Signified'?
- (f) What do you understand by 'soul force' from your reading of *Passive Resistance*?
- (g) In which book and year was the essay *Indian Literature : Notes towards the Definition of a Category* by Aijaz Ahmad published?

3. Answer the following questions : **(any six)**
5×6=30

- (a) Write a note on Gramsci's distinction between 'civil society' and 'political society'.

- (b) Why is educational system a dominant ideological state apparatus in capitalist social formations ?
- (c) Write a brief note on Luce Irigaray's critique on Freud in *When the Goods Get Together*.
- (d) How does Derrida deconstruct the idea of a 'centre' in his essay *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science* ?
- (e) Comment on Toril Moi's critique of Elaine Showalter's *A Literature of Their Own*.
- (f) How is Oriental viewed by Balfour and Cromer ?
- (g) Elaine Showalter discusses 'three phases' of feminist literary criticism in her essay *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited*. What are these and how does she characterize them ?
- (h) Write a brief note on Michel Foucault's critique of the concepts of ideology and repression.
- (i) Why does the editor clarify that it's still important for passive resisters to strengthen their bodies in *Passive Resistance* ?

- (j) Write a note on the difficulties in theorising the term 'Indian literature' as a fixed category, as discussed in the essay *Indian Literature : Notes towards the Definition of a Category*.

4. Answer the following questions : **(any two)**
10×2=20

- (a) "All men are intellectuals, one could therefore say : but not all men have in society the function of intellectuals." Elaborate the statement with reference to the distinctions between traditional and organic intellectuals made by Antonio Gramsci.
- (b) Discuss the changes and progress within the field of feminist literary criticism as reflected by Elaine Showalter in revisiting her work in *Twenty Years on : A Literature of Their Own Revisited*.
- (c) Give a critical view on the essay *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Science*.
- (d) "Orientalism is nothing more than a structure of lies or of myths." Interpret the statement with reference to the prescribed chapter of Said's *Orientalism*.

5. Answer the following questions : **(any one)**
14×1=14

- (a) How does Gramsci establish the relation between the rise of the intellectual class and the process of production in a society ?
 - (b) Elaborate Foucault's arguments on the relationship between truth, power and the position of the intellectual in society.
 - (c) "Passive resistance is an all-sided sword; it can be used anyhow; it blesses him who uses it and him against whom it is used." Write a critical note on Gandhi's theory of passive resistance in the light of the above line.
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