QP CODE

C1094

Enrollment Number: ……

Name: ……

B.A DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, AUGUST 2025
Sixth Semester
B.A. English Language and Literature
B21EG06DC – Principles of Literary Criticism
(2022 Admissions)

Time: 3 Hours **Max Marks: 70**

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. Who introduced the concept of 'catharsis' in literary theory?
2. Which philosophical method does Plato follow in his dialogues?
3. What specific term does Sidney use in his *Defence of Poetry* to describe the poets?
4. Who defined poetry as the 'spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings'?
5. Define 'fancy' based on Coleridge's observation?
6. Who said "Poetry is the criticism of life by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty"
7. According to Sidney, how does poetry combine delight and instruction?
8. Which concept in Eliot's essay signifies the poet as a 'detached medium'?
9. What is the literary movement that focused on 'close analysis of text'?
10. Who is associated with the concept of 'ambiguity' in poetry?
11. What are the three components of Freud's model of the psyche?
12. Which is the feminist critical approach that focuses on women as writers, exploring female literary traditions, themes, and experiences?
13. Who introduced the concept of 'subaltern' in postcolonial studies?
14. What is 'rasa' in Indian aesthetics?
15. What is 'hamartia' in Aristotle's Poetics?

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. Explain Plato's criticism of poetry in his Republic.
17. What are the key components Aristotle identifies as essential to a successful tragic drama?
18. Summarize Sidney's argument for the moral value of poetry.
19. Explain Arnold's 'Touchstone Method' with an example?

20. Analyze the concept of 'objective correlative' in Eliot's criticism.
21. Discuss the main focus of New Criticism?
22. What is the significance of Barthes' essay 'The Death of the Author'?
23. Define 'subaltern' in the context of postcolonial studies.
24. What is the significance of 'delight' and 'instruction' in Sidney's *Defense of Poetry*?
25. What does Arnold mean by 'high seriousness' in poetry?

(2X5=10)

Section C

Answer any six of the following questions in one page each. Each question carries 5 marks.

26. Discuss Plato's concepts of mimesis and diegesis.
27. Examine how Aristotle's notion contributes to the emotional power of tragedy.
28. Analyse how Sidney's Apology for Poetry anticipates Romantic ideas about poetry's moral and imaginative roles.
29. Analyse Coleridge's distinction between primary and secondary imagination and its implications for poetic creativity.
30. Discuss Sidney's *Defense of Poetry* in relation to contemporary debates over 'imaginative fiction' and 'fake news'.
31. Evaluate Wordsworth's notion of poetic diction and ordinary language in shaping poetry.
32. Apply Eliot's concept of the objective correlative in modernist poetry?
33. Analyse how F. R. Leavis's idea of 'Great Tradition' shapes 'literary canon formation'.
34. Illustrate the challenges posed by Barthes' essay to author-centred reading?
35. Apply the concept of subaltern to a specific postcolonial text or a historical context.
36. Examine the interplay between *alamkāra* and *rasa* in enriching poetic experience.
37. How does Sidney reconcile the tension between poetic embellishment and truth?

(5X6=30)

Section D

Answer any two of the following questions in three pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

38. How do Postcolonial concepts such as Othering, Subaltern, and Negritude enrich our understanding of identity and power in literature? Illustrate with examples.
39. Evaluate the contributions and limitations of feminist literary criticism in reshaping the literary canon and interpretive practice.
40. Analyze T. S. Eliot's 'Tradition and the Individual Talent' in light of F. R. Leavis's 'Great Tradition'—discuss their approaches to literary heritage and individuality.
41. Structuralism focuses on underlying systems (e.g., Saussure's signs); Psychoanalysis explores unconscious motives (id, ego, superego). Compare and contrast these two approaches as tools for literary analysis.

(10X2=20)