

[AE – S 801]

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION

Fourth Semester

English

Core Paper I – LITERARY CRITICISM: THEORY AND PRACTICE-II

(Effective from the admitted batch of 2022-2023)

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 70 Marks

1. Critically comment on either the poem or the prose passage given below: (1X10=10)

(A) Thus living, what is life but breath?

The dull departing of a ray;
A wasting of the soul away;
My brain throbs with that thought yet.
My brow is burning strangely, and my ear
Rings with a voice I would not hear.
He left the hall of revelry,
And wished good night and peace to me;
All eyes were fixed on him but mine
Nor dared to rise, nor dared to shine –
Something had gazed them over but no-
I scorned my weakness thus to show;
I looked around but he was gone;
And then I felt he was the one;
The only one who was to be
The ruler of my destiny.

Or

They would have to work hard on the farm, and probably they would never do much more than make a living. But if he could think of them as staying here on the land, he wouldn't have to fear any great unkindness for them. Hardships, certainly; it was a hardship to have the wheat freeze in the ground when the seed was so high; and to have to sell your stock, because you had no food. But there would be other years when everything came along right and you caught up. And what you had was your own. You didn't have to choose between bosses and strikers, and to go wrong either way. You didn't have to do with dishonest and cruel people. They were the only things in his experience he had found terrifying and horrible; the look in the eyes of dishonest and crafty man, of a scheming and rapacious woman. In the country, if you had a mean neighbor, you could keep off his land make him keep off yours. But in the city, all the fullness and misery and brutality of your neighbors was part of your life.

2. Answer any FOUR of the following:

- (a) What is dhvani and how does Anaadavardhana establish its primacy in the creation and interpretation of a work of art?
- (b) How does Wilson dispel the popular beliefs on literature and its association with ideologies?
- (c) How does Trilling describe the influence of Freud on Literature?
- (d) Discuss Baktin's attempt to contradict the view that novel is "discourse as an extra artistic medium".
- (e) Discuss how Barthes supports an independent interpretation of a work of art?
- (f) Describe Paul de Man's views on literal meaning and figurative meaning.

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