

FOURTH SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2019

(CUCSS-PG)

English Language and Literature

EN 4E 25—INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL STUDIES

(2012 Admission onwards)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum : 36 Weightage

I. Answer *all* the following questions, each in a word, phrase or sentence :

- 1 Which are the three wishes expressed by Raymond Williams ?
- 2 What is Gayatri Spivak famous for ?
- 3 What is meant by hegemony ?
- 4 Define *Dadaism*.
- 5 What is the concept of aura ?
- 6 Define tautology.
- 7 What is high culture ?
- 8 Why is televisual sign treated as a complex one ?

(8 × ½ = 4 weightage)

II. Write *a paragraph*, each of about 150 words, on any *six* of the following questions :—

- 9 Explain the suggestions made by Raymond Williams to explore culture.
- 10 Examine the two polar types based on which works of art are received and valued.
- 11 What is the subject matter of the essay, 'Inventing Traditions' ?
- 12 Summarise the three hypothetical positions from which decodings of a television discourse may be constructed.
- 13 Why does Gayle Rubin observe that sexuality is a matter for discipline and regularization ?
- 14 Explain what Spivak means by the term, "transactional".
- 15 How does R.W. Connell co-relate biology and culture ?
- 16 What are Kluge's views on film and public sphere ?
- 17 How does Barthes draw a distinction between the 'mythologist' and the "myth consumer" ?
- 18 What does Bourdieu mean by "reflexive sociology" ?

(6 × 2 = 12 weightage)

Turn over

III. Write essays of about 450 words on any *four* of the following questions, choosing one from each section :—

Section A

- 19 How are nationalism and violence co-related in the *Shadow Lines* ?
- 20 Examine the part played by Rajam in R.K. Narayan's novel.
- 21 What is the role of Kenny in the *Nectar in a Sieve* ?

Section B

- 22 Jaya is an appropriate model of Indian womanhood—a model of patience and self-expression. Examine this statement critically.
- 23 How is the state of alienation delineated by Anita Desai in her novel ?
- 24 Evaluate the characterization by Raja Rao in the *Cat and Shakespeare*.

Section C

- 25 Examine the propriety of the title, *Such a Long Journey*.
- 26 *Coolie* is a critique against capitalism. Critically examine this statement.
- 27 Do you think that *The Strange Case of Billy Biswas* is the representation of a corrupting influence of technology in this civilized world ? Argue upon your answer.

Section D

- 28 Evaluate the attempts made by R.K. Narayan and Kamala Markandaya in depicting a modern India through their novels.
- 29 "The *Midnight's Children* operates on different levels of reality, including the political, the personal, the fantastical and the factual." Examine this statement critically.
- 30 Make an assessment of the conflicting situations encountered by Neeloy Mukherjee before and after becoming a spiritual figure.

(4 × 5 = 20 weightage)