

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600086  
(for candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 & thereafter)  
SUBJECT CODE:19EL/PC/CT24

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION APRIL 2021  
BRANCH VII - ENGLISH  
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE: POSTGRADUATE CORE  
PAPER: CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY I

TIME: 1 ½ HOURS  
MARKS: 50

SECTION A

- I. Answer any two of the following questions in about 300 words each.  
(2x10=20)
1. Why does Cleanth Brooks state that “direct statements lead to abstraction”?
  2. Shklovsky says that the over-automatization of an object, permits the “greatest economy of perceptive effort”. Explain.
  3. What is the “guerrilla solution” proposed by Umberto Eco?
  4. According to Wolfgang Iser, how does the “unwritten” part of a text stimulate the reader’s perception?
- II. Answer any one of the following questions in about 650 words each.  
(1x15=15)
5. Jeffrey T. Nealon says that “the era of literary theory crucially shifts interpretation's emphasis from the *what* of meaning ... to the *how* of meaning, the strangely *enabling* task of infinite interpretation.” Do you agree?
  6. Critical theory has a crucial role to play in both the understanding and enjoyment of literature. Discuss.
- III. Critically analyse the following poem with reference to any one of the theories prescribed for study.  
(1x15=15)

7. **The Armful**  
-Robert Frost

For every parcel I stoop down to seize  
I lose some other off my arms and knees,  
And the whole pile is slipping, bottles, buns --  
Extremes too hard to comprehend at once,  
Yet nothing I should care to leave behind.  
With all I have to hold with hand and mind  
And heart, if need be, I will do my best  
To keep their building balanced at my breast.  
I crouch down to prevent them as they fall;  
Then sit down in the middle of them all.

I had to drop the armful in the road  
And try to stack them in a better load.