

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION APRIL 2026
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : POSTGRADUATE CORE
COURSE TITLE : CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY – I
SUBJECT CODE : 23EL/PC/CT24
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS: 100**

Q. No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
	Answer one of the following in about 250 words. (1x10=10)	1	1
1	Identify how irony is intertwined with the context of the poem as indicated by Cleanth Brooks.		
2	How does Culler emphasise on the role of conventions in interpretation of literature with reference to Blake’s “Ah! Sun-flower”?		
Q. No.	SECTION B	CO	KL
	Answer one of the following in about 250 words. (1x10=10)	2	2
3	Discuss the importance of code in communication elaborated by Umberto Eco in “Towards a Semiological Guerrilla Warfare.”		
4	Describe how Wolfgang Iser adopts the phenomenological approach to the reading process.		
Q. No.	SECTION C	CO	KL
	Answer one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	3	3
5	Write an essay elaborating Shklovsky’s views on art as technique.		
6	Explain Jacques Derrida’s idea of diffèrance.		
Q. No.	SECTION D	CO	KL
	Answer one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	4	4
7	Evaluate Barthes’ statement that “the birth of the reader must be ransomed by the death of the author.”		
8	Analyse the conceptual definition offered by Lyotard on the Post-Modern.		
Q. No.	SECTION E	CO	KL
	Read the following poem/passage and answer the questions “Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou		
	A free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wing in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky.		

	<p>But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing.</p> <p>The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.</p> <p>The free bird thinks of another breeze and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn and he names the sky his own.</p> <p>But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream his wings are clipped and his feet are tied so he opens his throat to sing.</p> <p>The caged bird sings with a fearful trill of things unknown but longed for still and his tune is heard on the distant hill for the caged bird sings of freedom.</p>		
	Answer one of the following in about 500 words. (1×20=20)	5	5
9	Assess the poem using any critical framework of your choice from the prescribed essays.		
10	Critique the given poem as a song that explicates the idea of freedom.		
	Answer one of the following in about 500 words. (1×20=20)	5	6
11	Justify the observation that the poem integrates poetic technique with the content.		
12	Validate the poem as a statement on the subaltern.		