

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2011  
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH  
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE  
PAPER : CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY  
TIME : 3 HOURS  
MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION – A

- I. Attempt any TWO of the following in about 1000 words each: (2x20=40)**
- What are the two schools of Formalism?
  - Describe the Russian concept of Art as Technique.
  - According to Culler 'Poetics is essentially a theory of reading'. What are the four propositions for revitalizing the powers of structuralist poetics?
- II. Attempt any ONE of the following: (1x20=20)**
- Explain Derrida's Deconstruction.
  - What does Derrida mean by 'Ellipsis'?
  - Define the postmodern.
- III. Attempt any ONE of the following: : (1x20=20)**
- The essay 'Is there a text in this class' is a strategic deployment to comprehend the attitudinal response to a text. Do you agree?
  - Explain Stephen Greenblatt's 'New Historicism'.
  - How does Rob Nixon hope "to bridge the gap between bioregionalism and cosmopolitanism, between transcendentalism and transnationalism, between an ethics of place and the experience of displacement"?
- IV. Attempt a critical analysis of the text given below. Identify the critical theory that you have selected and demonstrate how meaning is produced. (1x20=20)**

It takes much time to kill a tree,  
Not a simple jab of the knife  
Will do it. It has grown  
Slowly consuming the earth,  
Rising out of it, feeding  
Upon its crust, absorbing  
Years of sunlight, air, water  
And out of its leprous hide  
Sprouting leaves.

So hack and chop.  
But this alone won't do it  
The bleeding bark will heal  
And from close to the ground  
Will rise curried green twigs.  
Miniature boughs  
Which if unchecked will expand again  
To former size.

No.  
The root is to be pulled out –  
Out of the anchoring earth;  
It is to be roped, tied,  
And pulled out – snapped out  
Or pulled out entirely,  
Out from the earth-cave,  
And the strength of the tree exposed  
The source, white and wet  
The most sensitive, hidden  
For years inside the earth  
Then the matter  
Of scorching and choking  
In sun and air,  
Browning, hardening  
Twisting, withering,  
And then it is done.

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