

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad

Term-End Examination : January-2026

Course Name : MEG

Subject Name : Literary Criticism and Theory

Subject Code : MEG-05

Date : 12-02-2026

Time : 11:30AM TO 01:45PM

Max Marks : 70

Q.-1. Write answers to any one of the questions given below (in 1,200 words). (14)

1. Discuss the main features of classical literary criticism. How did classical thinkers understand the nature and purpose of literature?
2. Discuss Aristotle's theory of imitation and explain how it differs from Plato's views on art and poetry.

Q.-2. Answer the following question (Attempt any one) in about 1200 words. (14)

1. What is the function of literary criticism? Examine Matthew Arnold's views and evaluate their relevance in contemporary criticism.
2. Explain Plato's theory of imitation (mimesis) and his objections to poetry. Why does Plato consider poetry dangerous for society?

Q.-3. Write answers to any one of the questions given below (in 1,200 words). (14)

1. Explain the relationship between literary criticism and literary theory. Discuss how theory has influenced the practice of criticism in modern literary studies.
2. Explain T. S. Eliot's critical views on tradition and impersonality. How do these ideas redefine the role of the poet and poetry?

Q.-4. Write short notes on any two of the following topics. (14)

1. What does Wordsworth mean by the "language of common men"?
2. How does Freud's psychoanalysis contribute to literary criticism?
3. What is Edward Said's concept of Orientalism?
4. Why is deconstruction considered a challenge to traditional literary interpretation?

Q.-5. Choose the correct answer from the options given below (14)

(1) New Historicism studies literature in relation to which contexts?

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|------------------|-----------------|
| A) Psychological | B) Historical |
| C) Linguistic | D) Mythological |

(2) Edward Said's key concept in postcolonial theory is:

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|----------------|--------------|
| A) Hybridity | B) Subaltern |
| C) Orientalism | D) Mimicry |

(3) Postmodernism rejects the idea of:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| A) Personal narratives | B) Cultural narratives |
| C) Grand narratives | D) Religious narratives |

(4) Deconstruction exposes _____ oppositions in texts.

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|-------------|--------------|
| A) Cultural | B) Political |
| C) Binary | D) Social |

(5) Deconstruction questions the stability of:

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|--------------|------------|
| A) Language | B) Meaning |
| C) Structure | D) Culture |

(6) Elaine Showalter proposed the concept of:

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| A) Écriture féminine | B) Gynocriticism |
| C) Gender Performativity | D) Feminine Mystique |

(7) Simone de Beauvoir's major feminist work is:

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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| A) A Room of One's Own | B) The Feminine Mystique |
| C) The Second Sex | D) Sexual Politics |
