

2022  
M.A. (English) Third Semester  
Paper – IX: Critical Theory – I

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

**NOTE:** Attempt all questions.

x-x-x

- I. Whose later writings have been described by M. H. Abrams as often cryptic and may be applied in opposite ways, one inhibiting and the other liberating? In which way does Abrams use them? Give a detailed answer.

Or

Which section of M. H. Abrams's prescribed essay deals with Aristotle's *Poetics*? Explain in detail what Abrams has to say on Aristotle's contribution. (16)

- II. While writing on the numerous varieties of aphasia, explain why Jakobson writes that "the development of a discourse may take along two different semantic lines: one topic may lead to another either through their similarity or through their contiguity."

Or

What is the main thesis of Roland Barthes's prescribed essay? What makes him assert that "to refuse to arrest meaning is finally to refuse God and his hypostases, reason, science, the law"? (16)

- III. What does Derrida have to say on sentences like "deconstruction is X" or "deconstruction is not X"? On the basis of your reading of "Letter to a Japanese Friend," discuss what you understand by 'deconstruction'

Or

Write an essay on Lyotard's contribution to critical theory. (16)

- IV. Do you agree with the view that the Panopticon "must not be understood as a dream building; it is the diagram of a mechanism of power reduced to its ideal form."

P.T.O.

(2)

Or

What makes Deleuze say that "in the societies of control, one is never finished with anything"? (16)

- V. Attempt a critical summary of Baudrillard's "Conclusion; towards a definition of consumption."

Or

Would you agree that Baudrillard is a critical observer of the late capitalist society? Does he offer any solutions to its problems? (16)

x-x-x