

(2 Hours)

(Total Marks: 60)

**N.B. 1. Answer all 4 questions.**

**2. All questions carry equal marks.**

1. a) Critically comment on Raymond Williams' claim, as elaborated in *Marxism and Literature*, that hegemony "is a whole body of practices and expectations, over the whole of living: our senses and assignments of energy, our shaping perceptions of ourselves and our world. "

**OR**

- b) Williams argues against a systems-based approach to culture which regards culture as a coherent system dominated by a singular tendency. In light of this, discuss his ideas of the dominant, residual and emergent as argued in *Marxism and Literature*.

2. a). Derrida arrives at the idea of myth as an appropriate tool to deconstruct a laden centre. How effective has this efficacious idea been in enabling a deconstruction of the centre?

**OR**

- b) Though Derrida acknowledges the contributions of the structuralists as the right move ahead in understanding structures, he also points out the grey areas. Illustrate your answers with reference to the essay "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences".

3. a) For Iser, meaning is not an object to be found within a text, but is an event of construction that occurs somewhere between the text and the reader. Elaborate, with reference to the essay, "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach".

**OR**

- b) How does Iser argue in "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach" that "in considering a literary work, one must take into account not only the actual text but also, and in equal measure, the actions involved in responding to that text"?

4. a) "The desire to deterritorialize seems particularly crucial for minorities who want to remain minorities and affirm perspectives that are not those of the culture they inhabit." In light of this comment discuss the key features of minor literature as elaborated by Deleuze and Guattari in their essay "What is Minor Literature?"

**OR**

- b) Deleuze and Guattari argue in their essay "What is Minor Literature" that in his emphasis on the political nature of minor literature and the collective function of the individual writer, Kafka is characterizing his own literary practice. Elaborate.

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