



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION – ENGLISH LITERATURE

FIFTH SEMESTER – APRIL 2013

EL 5503 - CRITICAL THEORIES

Date: 13/05/2013
Time: 9:00 - 12:00

Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

PART – A

Answer any five of the following in about 150 words each. Choose at least two from each section: (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

SECTION A

1. What is the function of Criticism?
2. Explain the concept of historical criticism.
3. Show how Sidney refutes the charges against poetry in “Apology for Poetry”.
4. Bring out the views of Wordsworth on poetic language in the “Preface to the Lyrical Ballads”.

SECTION B

5. Write a note on the major principles of comparative criticism.
6. Highlight the importance of the sociological approach.
7. How does Dr Johnson defend Shakespeare’s use of the three unities?
8. Discuss the “Touchstone Method” as proposed by Matthew Arnold.

PART – B

Answer the following in about 400 words each: (2 × 20= 40 marks)

9. (a) Consider “Preface to Shakespeare” as an exemplary essay in literary criticism.

Or

(b) Explain the impact of the Romantic school on English Literature.

10. (a) Examine in detail the opinions expressed by Eliot regarding tradition and individual talent.

Or

(b) Discuss how an understanding of critical theories helps in the interpretation and appreciation of literature with specific reference to the texts prescribed.

PART – C

11. Attempt a critical analysis of the following poem:

(20 marks)

Ignorance by Philip Larkin

Strange to know nothing, never to be sure
Of what is true or right or real,
But forced to qualify or so I feel,
Or Well, it does seem so:
Someone must know.

Strange to be ignorant of the way things work:
Their skill at finding what they need,
Their sense of shape, and punctual spread of seed,
And willingness to change;
Yes, it is strange,

Even to wear such knowledge - for our flesh
Surrounds us with its own decisions -
And yet spend all our life on imprecisions,
That when we start to die
Have no idea why.

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