

# KAMARAJ COLLEGE (Autonomous)

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(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli)

(3 Pages)

Reg. No: .....

Question Code:26E02104

Course Code: 24PMEN32

PG Degree - End Semester Examinations, April 2026

Third Semester

M.A. ENGLISH

Contemporary Literary Criticism

(For those who joined in July 2024 onwards)

Time : 3Hours

Maximum : 75 Marks

## PART - A (10 × 1 = 10 Marks)

Answer ALL Questions

Choose the correct answer:

- CO:1  
K: 1
1. Recall the main purpose behind Richards' "Four Kinds of Meaning"
- (a) To classify genres                      (b) To reduce mistakes in writing poetry
- (c) To reduce misinterpretation in reading poetry                      (d) To analyse myths
- CO:1  
K: 1
2. Identify the term used by Northrop Frye to refer the 'recurring narrative patterns in literature'
- (a) Motif                                      (b) Mythos
- (c) Allegory                                      (d) Trope
- CO:2  
K: 2
3. Derrida considers structuralism as limited because \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Structuralism ignores language                      (b) Structuralism depends on fixed principle
- (c) Structuralism rejects centre                      (d) Structuralism ignores narrative patterns
- CO:2  
K: 1
4. Choose the primary profession of Claude Levi-Strauss
- (a) Anthropologist                      (b) Linguist
- (c) Sociologist                      (d) Historian
- CO:3  
K: 1
5. Identify the movement associated with Cleanth Brooks
- (a) Marxism                      (b) Psychoanalysis
- (c) Post-Structuralism                      (d) New Criticism

- CO:3  
K: 2
6. How did Freud interpret the transformation of private fantasy in literature?
- (a) It remains purely personal (b) It becomes political  
(c) It is made socially acceptable through artistic devices (d) It becomes an obsession
- CO:4  
K: 1
7. Identify the role of the reader in a "work"
- (a) Passive receiver (b) Moral judge  
(c) Active producer of meaning (d) Historical critic
- CO:4  
K: 1
8. With which phase of economy did Eagleton compare postmodernism?
- (a) Early Capitalism (b) Late Capitalism  
(c) Feudal economy (d) Socialism
- CO:5  
K: 1
9. Find out M.H.Abrams' conception of textual meaning
- (a) Meaning is stable (b) Meaning is only political  
(c) Meaning is structured (d) Meaning endlessly deferred
- CO:5  
K: 2
10. Relate the "Third Space" in the theory of Homi K Bhabha
- (a) Cultural negotiation (b) Political territory  
(c) Psychological conflict (d) Religious institution

**PART - B (5 X 5 = 25 Marks)**

**Answer ALL Questions choosing either (a) or (b).**

**Answer should not exceed 250 words.**

- CO: 1  
K: 3
11. (a) Classify the four kinds of meaning propounded by I.A. Richards
- (OR)
- (b) Examine a few recurring archetypal symbols in literature(s)
- CO: 2  
K: 3
12. (a) Analyse Derrida's claim that structure is characterised by play
- (OR)
- (b) Identify the function of mythemes suggested by Claude Levi-Strauss
- CO: 3  
K: 4
13. (a) Categorize dramatic irony and situational irony
- (OR)
- (b) Inspect how a writer's fancy influences literature
- CO: 4  
K: 4
14. (a) Compare and contrast "Work" and "Text" with reference to Roland Barthes. Give examples
- (OR)

(b) Inspect Terry Eagleton's contributions to literary criticism

CO: 5  
K: 4 15. (a) Analyse M.H. Abrams' conception of deconstruction  
(OR)

(b) Examine Homi K.Bhabha's concept in 'Cultures in Between'.

**PART - C (5 X 8 = 40 Marks)**

**Answer ALL Questions choosing either (a) or (b).**

**Answer should not exceed 600 words.**

CO: 1  
K: 5 16. (a) Defend your interpretation of a literary text by systematically using the four kinds of meaning  
(OR)

(b) Evaluate Northrop Frye's classification of literary genres based on seasons

CO: 2  
K: 6 17. (a) Discuss Derrida's undermining of structuralism in his essay "Structure, sign and play in the Discourse of Human Sciences"

(OR)

(b) Compare the studies of 'myths' and 'psychoanalysis' in the structuralist framework

CO: 3  
K: 6 18. (a) Elaborate the significance of "Irony as Principle of Structure" in New Criticism  
(OR)

(b) Evaluate the roles of daydreaming and fantasies in literary creativity

CO: 4  
K: 5 19. (a) Judge the contribution of "From work to Text" to postmodernism  
(OR)

(b) Critique the distinction drawn by Eagleton between modernist critique and postmodernist aesthetic detachment

CO: 5  
K: 6 20. (a) Formulate a deconstructionist interpretation through questioning meaning, context, author and authority  
(OR)

(b) Discuss how Bhabha's 'The Third Space' produces hybridity and challenges binary oppositions.