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**PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY
BENGALURU**

Department of Research & Development

Mid - Term Examinations – AUGUST 2024

Odd Semester: Ph.D. Course Work

Course Code: ENG817

Course Name: Contemporary Literary Theories

Department: English

Date: 12/08/2024

Time: 09:30 am – 11:00 pm

Max Marks: 50

Weightage: 25%

Instructions:

- (i) Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.
(ii) Do not write any matter on the question paper other than roll number.
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PART A (THOUGHT PROVOKING)

Answer all the Questions. Each question carries 5 marks.

(4Qx 5M= 20M)

1. Analyze the concept of "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" by Matthew Arnold. How does Arnold's view critique the role of humanism in literary theory? Utilize examples from your field of expertise to support your analysis. (CO1 Analyze)
2. Examine the structuralist approach as presented in Ferdinand de Saussure's "Nature of the Linguistic Sign." How can this theory be applied to contemporary texts within your specialization? Provide specific examples to illustrate your points. (CO2 Analyze)
3. Evaluate Jacques Derrida's theory in "Structure, Sign, and Play" in relation to postmodernism. How can Derrida's deconstructionist approach be used to analyze texts relevant to your research area? (CO3 Analyze)
4. Discuss Jean-Francois Lyotard's concept of the postmodern condition as explained in "Defining the Postmodern." How does this theory apply to current cultural phenomena? Incorporate examples from your domain to substantiate your discussion. (CO3 Analyze)

PART B (PROBLEM SOLVING)

Answer all the Questions. Each question carries 10 marks.

(3Qx 10M= 30M)

5. Analyze the formalist perspective as depicted in Victor Shklovsky's "Art as Technique." How can this approach be utilized to reinterpret a classical work within your research area? Provide a detailed analysis with relevant examples. (CO2 Analyze)
6. Evaluate the psychoanalytic readings of Sigmund Freud, particularly "The Dream Work" and "The Uncanny." How can these theories be applied to the study of modern narratives or texts within your expertise? Illustrate with examples from your research or teaching. (CO3 Analyze)
7. Analyze Terry Eagleton's arguments in "The Rise of English" and discuss how his critique of literary education reflects broader cultural and ideological shifts. How can Eagleton's insights be applied to contemporary debates in literary theory and criticism within your field of research? Provide specific examples to support your analysis. (CO1 Analyze)