

ANNAI VAILANKANNI ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Principles of Literary Criticism

Question Bank

Unit – A

Short questions with suitable answers

1. What is literary theory and why it is important? (November 2018, April 2019)

Answer: Literary study is usually general or abstract in nature and offers an overreaching pattern or set of principles for the study of genres, formal unity or meaning. (Kulkarni, 2015, 1)

2. What is the use of literary criticism? (November 2018)

Answer: Literary criticism is hard to pin down a single concise definition. This becomes clear when we go through a huge mound of treaties, histories, and introductory books on criticism (Kulkarni, 2015, 1).

3. Explain different types of Criticism. (April 2019)

Answer: There are several types in criticism like Legislative criticism, Judicial criticism, Theoretical criticism, Evaluative criticism, Historical Criticism, Biographical criticism, Comparative criticism, Descriptive criticism, Impressionistic criticism, Textual or Ontological criticism, Psychological criticism, Sociological and Marxist criticism and Archetypal criticism (Tilak, 2011, 10-14).

4. Define ‘Moralistic Approach’ (November 2018, April 2019)

Answer: The Moral approach: In the tradition of Plato and the Renaissance humanists, the Neo-Humanists study literature as a “Criticism of Life”. their concept of human nature as an agent of reason and ethical standards opposes both the Naturalists with their “debased view of man” and the Romantics with their “Excessive cultivation of the ego” (Scott, 1962, n.p).

5. What is the mimetic theory in literature? (November 2018, April 2019)

Answer: The **mimetic theory** of desire is an explanation of human behavior and culture which originated with the French historian and polymath René Girard. The name of the theory is derived from the philosophical concept mimesis, which carries a wide range of meanings. In mimetic theory, mimesis refers to human desire, which Girard thought was not linear but the product of a mimetic process in which people imitate models who endow objects with value (<https://violenceandreligion.com/mimetic-theory/>).

6. What is psychological analysis of literature and how it is important? (November 2018, April 2019)

Answer: Psychoanalysis developed as a discipline due to the group of followers Freud had in Vienna. Notable names among these include Dr. Alfred Adler (1870-1937), Dr. C.G. Jung (1875-1961) and Otto Rank (1884-1939). Sigmund Freud, with these friends and followers, developed the Viennese Psychoanalytic society (Kulkarni, 2015, 181).

Psychoanalysis is a systematic analysis of the human mind, especially of the unconscious and Psychoanalytic critics study the linguistic and symbolic patterns in the text attempt to reveal the subconscious motives behind the surface description (Scott, 1962, n.p).

7. What is archetypal criticism? / Who created Archetypal criticism? (November 2018, April 2019)

Answer: Literature in the Light of Myth: This method is a demonstration of some basic cultural pattern of great meaning and appeal to humanity in a work of art; it suggests interest in myth and the influence of Frazer (The Golden Bough) and Jung (the theory of the collective unconsciousness). The Jungians “reward myth not as the dream of an inhibited individual person but as protoplasmic pattern of the race”. Gilbert Murray states: “in the greatest ages of literature there seems to be, among other things, a power of preserving due proportion between opposite elements – the expression of boundless primitive emotion and the subtle and delicate representation of life” (Scott, 1962, n.p).

8. What are Aristotle’s six elements of tragedy? (November 2018, April 2019)

- i. Mimesis
- ii. Hamartia
- iii. Anagnorisis
- iv. Mythos
- v. Katharsis
- vi. Peripeteia. (Tilak, 2011, 48-67).

9. What are the three unities in drama?

- i. Unity of action
- ii. Unity of Time
- iii. Unity of Place. (Tilak, 2011, 75-78).

10. What is Wordsworth’s conception of poetry?

Poetry is the spontaneous over-flow of powerful passion according to William Wordsworth (Tilak, 2011, 237).

11. What is ‘Touchstone method’? Who created it?

Mathew Arnold created touchstone method to judge the merits of good poetry by comparing the modern poems with classicists (Tilak, 2011, 285).

12. What is the conception of T.S. Eliot’s ‘Tradition and Individual Talent’?

T.S. Eliot proposes that “not only of the pastness of the past, but also of its presence. One who has historic sense feels that the whole of the literature of Europe from Homer down

to his own day, including the literature of his own country, forms one continuous “literary tradition” (Tilak, 2011, 327).

13. Mention any two differences between ‘literary theory’ and ‘literary criticism’?

- i. Literary criticism is interpretative in nature whereas theory is not interpretative.
- ii. Criticism is disciplinary and institutionalized meanwhile theory is interdisciplinary and against to any institutionalization. (Kulkarni, 2015, 97)

14. Who wrote *On the Sublime*?

Longinus was the author of the famous critical work ***On the Sublime*** (Kulkarni, 2015, 23).

15. Who wrote *Ars Poetica*?

Horace (65-8 BC) wrote famous ***Ars Poetica*** (an epistle addressed to a father and two sons and expressed his views about poetry and drama) (Kulkarni, 2015, 22)

Unit – B

Paragraph questions with key points

1. Write the important of literary theory in literature (November 2018, April 2019).

- It is not interpretive in nature
- It does not look for meaning but textual aspects
- It is anti- or interdisciplinary
- It is against any institutionalization
- It is entirely linguistic in its orientation
- Theory is strictly limited to biographical, historical and psychological approaches.
- It raises basic questions about the nature, role and relevance of literature and language.
- They deny any kind of centre or source.
- Theory emphasizes the role of the reader in the reading process. (Kulkarni, 2015, 97-99) .

2. Why is literary criticism so important? (April, 2019)

- It is interpretative in nature
- It is disciplinary
- It is not entirely linguistic in its orientation
- Traditional criticism is biographical, historical and psychological
- Modern criticism is objective, rational, scientific, textual and pedagogical
- Tradition criticism is author centered and modern criticism is text centered.

3. What are the various types of criticism? (November 2018).

- Legislative criticism,
- Judicial criticism,
- Theoretical criticism,

- Evaluative criticism,
 - Historical Criticism,
 - Biographical criticism,
 - Comparative criticism,
 - Descriptive criticism,
 - Impressionistic criticism,
 - Textual or Ontological criticism,
 - Psychological criticism,
 - Sociological and Marxist criticism
 - Archetypal criticism (Tilak, 2011, 10-14).
- 4. Who are the main practitioners of Psychological approaches? (April 2019)**
- Dr. Alfred Alder
 - Dr. C.G. Jung
 - Otto Rank
 - Sigmund Freud (Scott, 1962, n.p).
- 5. How does Moralistic approach can be applied on literature? (November 2018 and April 2019).**
- Compassion
 - The Modern Confusion
 - Right versus wrong
 - New Morality versus old morality
 - Significance of morality in literature (Scott, 1962, n.p).
- 6. Discuss Coleridge's views on "Willing suspension of disbelief". (April 2019).**
- "Willingness Suspension disbelief – which Coleridge uses to indicate the nature of poetic dramatic illusion
 - Chapter XIV of the Biographia Literaria
 - Disbelief for the moment which constitutes poetic faith
- 7. Why does Dryden consider English drama is superior to French drama? (November 2018).**
- Essay on Dramatic Poesy
 - Ancients versus moderns
 - English versus French
 - Superiority of moderns over Ancients
 - Superiority of Restoration English dramatists over French dramatists (Tilak, 2011, 148).
- 8. Analyze Archetypal approach? (November 2018 and April 2019).**
- James Frazer (The Golden Bough)
 - Carl Jung (the theory of the collective unconsciousness)
 - The Jungians "reward myth not as the dream of an inhibited individual person but as protoplasmic pattern of the race".

- The expression of boundless primitive emotion and the subtle and delicate representation of life” (Scott, 1962, n.p).

9. Formalistic Approach – Write a short note.

- Coleridge’s seeds of organic unity
- I.A. Richard’s semantic approach
- T.S. Eliot and William James
- Humanistic emphasis on moral uses of literature (Scott, 1962, n.p).

10. Discuss the limitation of Sociological approach. (November 2018)

- Art’s relation to society
- Hyppolyte Taine (French critic)
- The work of art and its place in the social atmosphere (Scott, 1962, n.p).

Unit – C

Essay questions with key points

1. Elucidate the importance of Literary History and give reasons with example. (April 2019).

- Classical criticism
- Renaissance Criticism
- Restoration Criticism
- Neo-Classical Criticism
- Victorian Criticism
- Modern Criticism

2. Consider Plato as Master Critic of English Literature (April 2019).

- Republic
- Plato’s opinions about poets
- Aristotle’s views
- Philip Sydney’s response to Stephen Gosson’s views regarding poetry
- Plato’s literary influence on the critics of England (From Stephen Gosson to Mathew Arnold)

3. Eliot’s criticism offers both a reaction and reassessment – Justify. (November 2018 and April 2019).

- Tradition and individual talent
- Objective correlative
- Homer to contemporary literature
- Country literature

4. How might a psychological approach account for different responses in female and male readers? (April 2019).

- Oedipus complex
- Electra Complex
- Sigmund Freud’s views on Libido
- Child Psychology

- Repression

5. Name four types of sociological approach. (April 2019).

- Macro-objective
- Macro-subjective
- Micro-objective
- Micro-subjective

6. What are the differences between literary theory and literary criticism? (October 2018)

Theory	Criticism
- It is not interpretive in nature	- It is interpretative in nature
- It does not look for meaning but textual aspects	- It is disciplinary
- It is anti- or interdisciplinary	- It expects meaning from text
- It is against any institutionalization	- Tradition criticism is author centered and modern criticism is text centered.
- It is entirely linguistic in its orientation	- It is not entirely linguistic in its orientation
- Theory is strictly limited to biographical, historical and psychological approaches.	- Traditional criticism is biographical, historical and psychological
- They deny any kind of centre or source.	- Modern criticism is objective, rational, scientific, textual and pedagogical

7. Examine Plato's theory of imitation. (November 2018).

- Thrice removed from reality
- Ideal and real

- Multi-universe.
- 8. Elucidate the influence of Freud on literary criticism. (November 2018).**
 - Oedipus complex
 - Electra Complex
 - Sigmund Freud's views on Libido
 - Child Psychology
 - Repression
 - Author's psychology and work of art
- 9. Who are the main practitioners of Formalistic criticism?**
 - Coleridge's seeds of organic unity
 - I.A. Richards's semantic approach
 - T.S. Eliot
 - William James

References:

- 1. Thilak. Raghukul. History and Principles of Literary Criticism, 2011.**
- 2. Scott, Wilber. Approaches to Literature, 1962.**
- 3. Kulkarni and Chasker. An Introduction to Literary theory and criticism, 2015.**

With best compliments,
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