

Full Name (in CAPITAL letters).....

KMUO – Department of English language

M1/S1 Examination in Literary Theory – (2022/2023)



Activity one (10 points) : Circle the correct answer (choose ONLY ONE) :

1- How did the New Critics view literature ?

- A. As an aesthetic object that is independent of historical context
- B. As an aesthetic object that is influenced by historical context
- C. As a historical object that is also aesthetic
- D. As a historical object that is not necessarily aesthetic
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

2- The concept of “close reading” is related to which of the following theories ?

- A. New Criticism
- B. Russian Formalism
- C. Structuralism
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

3- What do structuralists and the New Critics have in common ?

- A. Both sets of critics reject the importance of historical context in studying literature.
- B. Both sets of critics look for an objective way to view texts.
- C. Both sets of critics focus on evaluating literature in a scientific manner.
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

4- A critic examining John Milton’s “Paradise Lost” focuses on the physical description of the Garden of Eden, on the symbols of hands, seed, and flower, and on the characters of Adam, Eve, Satan, and God. He pays special attention to the epic similes and metaphors and the point of view from which the tale is being told. He looks for meaning in the text itself, and does not refer to any biography of Milton. He is most likely a(n).....?

- A. Expressive critic
- B. Objective critic
- C. Mimetic critic
- D. Pragmatic critic
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

5- What approach is described by the following statement: “Those who apply this approach believe it is necessary to know about the author and the political, economical, and sociological context of his times in order to truly understand his works” ?

- A. Historical/Biographical Approach
- B. Moral/ Philosophical Approach
- C. Formalism
- D. Psychological Approach
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

6. In structuralism, the relationship between the sign and what it refers to is what?

- A. Identical.
- B. Different
- C. Arbitrary
- D. Necessary.
- F. All of the above answers are correct
- E. All of the above answers are incorrect

7- Which of the following figures is considered to be the father of the linguistic theory known as structuralism ?

- A. Cleanth Brooks
- B. Karl Marx
- C. Ferdinand de Saussure
- D. Toni Morrison
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

8- Which of the following descriptions best defines the literary theory known as formalism?

- A. An approach that emphasizes literary devices in a text
- B. An approach that emphasizes the historical context of a text
- C. An approach that emphasizes the biographical intent of a text
- D. An approach that emphasizes racial issues in a text
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

9- Formalist critics believe that the value of a work cannot be determined by the author’s intention. What term do they use when speaking of this belief?

- A. The intentional fallacy
- B. The pathetic fallacy
- C. The affective fallacy
- D. The objective correlative
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

10- According to the New Critics, the complexity of a work was due to its

- A. Linguistic unity
- B. Organic unity
- C. Linguistic complexity
- D. Multiplicity of its imagery
- E. All of the above answers are correct
- F. All of the above answers are incorrect

Activity Two (10 points) : Structuralism examines the underlying structure of literary texts. Explain in a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 250 words.

Structuralism is a theoretical approach that studies the underlying structure of literary texts and cultural phenomena. This approach originated in linguistic and anthropological studies, but has since been applied to various fields including literature, psychology, and film studies. Structuralists believe that the meaning of a text or cultural artifact is not solely dependent on the individual elements that make it up, but on the relationships and patterns between these elements.

The goal of structuralism is to identify these underlying structures, or "deep structures," that determine the meaning of a text or cultural phenomenon. Structuralists view these structures as systems of signs, where each sign represents a particular cultural value or meaning. To uncover these structures, structuralists use techniques such as semiotics, where they analyze the way in which signs are used to convey meaning in a text.

In literary studies, structuralism is applied to the analysis of narrative and narrative elements such as plot, character, and theme. Structuralists argue that these elements are not simply arbitrary, but are determined by the underlying structures of a text. For example, a structuralist may analyze the way in which a particular character is used to convey certain cultural values, or the way in which the narrative structure of a text reveals certain themes.

Structuralism is a theoretical approach that examines the underlying structures of literary texts and cultural phenomena. It is based on the belief that the meaning of a text or cultural artifact is not solely dependent on its individual elements, but on the relationships and patterns between these elements. Through the use of techniques such as semiotics, structuralists aim to uncover these underlying structures and understand the cultural values and meanings that they convey.