Sample Questions
Subject- English
Paper- DSE-I
LITERARY CRITICISM

Short answer type questions.

Cleanth Brooks' language of paradox in New Criticism:

1. What does Cleanth Brooks' concept of paradox emphasize in literary works?

2. How does the language of paradox create tension in literature?

3. What role does ambiguity play in Cleanth Brooks' theory of the language of paradox?

4. What is the purpose of using contradictory elements in New Criticism?

5. How does the language of paradox contribute to multiple interpretations in literature?

Terry Eagleton's Literature and Ideology:

1. What is the main focus of Terry Eagleton's book, Literature and Ideology?

2. How does Eagleton view the relationship between literature and ideology?

3. Does Eagleton argue that literary works are politically neutral?

4. What role does social context play in Eagleton's analysis of literature?

5. How does ideology shape and influence literary works?

Simon de Beauvoir's The Second Sex in Feminism:

1. What is the central topic explored by Simone de Beauvoir in The Second * in Feminism?

2. What is the significance of "the other" in de Beauvoir's feminist analysis?

3. In what way does de Beauvoir challenge traditional gender roles and expectations?

4. How does de Beauvoir view women's experiences in patriarchal societies?

5. What is de Beauvoir's call to action regarding gender equality?

Saussure's "nature of linguistic sign" in structuralism:

1. What does Saussure's concept of the "nature of linguistic sign" refer to?

2. How does Saussure define a linguistic sign?

3. What are the two components of a linguistic sign according to Saussure?

4. Is there a direct relationship between the signifier and the signified for Saussure?

5. What does Saussure argue about the conventional nature of language?

Long answer type questions.

Cleanth Brooks' language of paradox in New Criticism:

1. How does Cleanth Brooks define the concept of paradox in the context of literary analysis within New Criticism? Could you provide examples of paradoxical language employed in literary works?

2. What is the significance of paradoxical language in literature according to Brooks? How does it contribute to the overall interpretation and understanding of a text?

3. In what ways does the language of paradox challenge traditional notions of meaning and coherence in literature? How does it complicate our understanding of authorial intent and reader response?

4. Can you explain how the language of paradox operates as a tool for tension and ambiguity in literary texts? What effects does this linguistic strategy have on readers?

5. How does Brooks' theory of the language of paradox fit into the broader framework of New Criticism? Does it align with or challenge other key principles and methodologies associated with this literary approach?

Terry Eagleton's Literature and Ideology:

1. What is Terry Eagleton's main argument regarding the relationship between literature and ideology in his book, Literature and Ideology? How does he define ideology in this context?

2. Could you explain Eagleton's perspective on how literature reflects and perpetuates dominant ideologies within society? How does he support this argument with examples from specific literary works?

3. According to Eagleton, can literature challenge or subvert prevailing ideologies? If so, how does it accomplish this task? If not, what limits or constraints does Eagleton identify on literature's potential for ideological resistance?

4. How does Eagleton analyze the role of social context in shaping both literary production and reception? In what ways do historical, cultural, and political factors influence the relationship between literature and ideology?

5. What are some key criticisms or debates surrounding Eagleton's argument about literature and ideology? Are there alternative perspectives that offer different insights into this relationship?

Simone de Beauvoir's The Second * in Feminism:

1. In The Second * in Feminism, what are the central ideas and arguments put forth by Simone de Beauvoir regarding the condition of women in patriarchal societies? How does she analyze and critique traditional gender roles?

2. Could you explain de Beauvoir's concept of "the other" and its significance within her feminist analysis? How does it relate to notions of individuality, oppression, and power dynamics?

3. How does de Beauvoir challenge essentialist views of femininity and advocate for a more nuanced understanding of women's experiences? What alternative frameworks does she propose for thinking about gender?

4. What role does de Beauvoir assign to agency and choice in the pursuit of gender equality? How does she address criticisms that her perspective neglects intersectionality and fails to account for the experiences of women from marginalized communities?

5. How has de Beauvoir's work influenced feminist theory and activism since its publication? Are there ongoing debates or critiques related to her ideas presented in The Second *?

Saussure's "nature of linguistic sign" in structuralism:

1. Can you explain Ferdinand de Saussure's concept of the "nature of linguistic sign" within the framework of structuralism? What are the main elements or components involved in his theory?

2. How does Saussure define a linguistic sign, and what is the distinction between the signifier and the signified? Can you provide examples to illustrate this relationship?

3. According to Saussure, is there a direct correspondence between language and objective reality? How does he argue that meaning is constructed through language rather than being inherent in words or concepts themselves?

4. Could you explain Saussure's emphasis on the arbitrary nature of signs within a linguistic system? Why is this idea significant for understanding language as a system of differences and relations?

5. How does Saussure's theory of the linguistic sign challenge traditional views of language and meaning? In what ways has his work influenced subsequent fields such as semiotics and literary theory?