

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay

Ph. D. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (ENGLISH)

Marks: 70 Time: 3 hours

1. Answer any **TWO** of the following questions (in not more than 750 words each):

Your answer should be substantiated through references to particular works and authors.

Do NOT repeat writers/topics you will discuss in Question 2.

[2x15=30 marks]

- a) Write an essay on trauma and representation
- b) What are a few of the significant gains and challenges of using postcolonial theory to read contemporary India and 'its' texts?
- c) Write an essay on trends in modern Indian theatre
- d) Does feminist criticism compromise aesthetics to the cause of ideology?
- e) Write an essay on literature and ecocriticism
- f) What reasons can you posit for magical realism and its specificity to Latin America/India?
- g) Write a note on the socio-political impact of art in thinking about the nation
- h) Write an essay on dramaturgy

2. What is the topic you propose for your doctoral work? Identify and discuss the main issues/texts/research questions/authors (or a combination of these, as relevant) of the research project you wish to undertake. [20 marks]

3. Provide a critical reading of the following poem (not exceeding 750 words):

OR

Discuss with one example the methodology of documenting and interpreting a ritualistic performance. Elaborate on the different implications that your choices would have in studying the performance in question.

[20 marks]

Sonnet 6
Edna St. Vincent Millay

No rose that in a garden ever grew,
In Homer's or in Omar's or in mine,
Though buried under centuries of fine
Dead dust of roses, shut from sun and dew
Forever, and forever lost from view,
But must again in fragrance rich as wine
The grey aisles of the air incarnadine
When the old summers surge into a new.
Thus when I swear, "I love with all my heart,"
'Tis with the heart of Lilith that I swear,
'Tis with the love of Lesbia and Lucrece;
And thus as well my love must lose some part
Of what it is, had Helen been less fair,
Or perished young, or stayed at home in Greece.

Omar: Persian mathematician, astronomer, and poet, renowned in his own country and time for his scientific achievements but chiefly known to English-speaking readers through the translation of a collection of his *robā'īyāt* ("quatrains") in *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* (1859), by the English writer Edward FitzGerald.

Lilith: in Jewish mythology, a femme fatale figure who steals babies in darkness and, in certain versions, appears as Adam's first wife. In Robert Browning's poem "Adam, Lilith, and Eve," she is imagined as Adam's true lover, while Eve admits that she never really loved him.

Lesbia: pseudonym used by the Roman poet Catullus to refer to his lover, and possibly a poet in her own right. Her conduct and motives are maligned in Cicero's speech "Pro Caelio."

Lucrece: a noblewoman in ancient Rome whose rape by Tarquin was the cause of a rebellion that overthrew the Roman monarchy and led to the transition of Roman government from a kingdom to a republic.