

Department of English
University of Hyderabad

Ph.D. ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2012

Max. Time: 2 Hours

Max. Marks: 75

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do **NOT** reveal your identity in any manner in any part of the Answer Book.
2. Enter your Hall Ticket Number on the **first** page of **each** answer book. There are **three sections** in all.
3. Write your answers **ONLY** in the space provided in the answer book. **NO** additional paper or answer book will be given.
4. This paper is divided into **three sections: I, II and III.**
5. Start your work on **Page 3.**
6. Space for **rough work** is provided on **Pages 24 and 25.**
7. This question paper contains **25** pages in all. Ensure that there are no blank sheets in the book before you start answering.
8. At the end of the examination **return all three sections of the answer book** to the invigilator.

[Turn to Page 2 for Section I]

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SECTION I

LITERATURE: A POEM FOR ANALYSIS

[MARKS 25]

Write an essay on the following poem commenting on the form, style and content.

Learning the Language

We swallow our words, spit them
from the side of our mouths
like grape-pips or fish-bones.
I watch your moving lips
practice the pouts and stretches
till my own cheeks ache
under a mask of skin.

I wait for the sudden lifting of a chin
or wrist, a foot flapping;
listen for changes of tone,
a forefinger flicking a lighter,
the oceans of clinking glass
where a man could set sail single-handed
and never find his way across.

I turn the silky pages with a hiss,
searching for words. In the evening
idioms come to me like my children
when they were little, jostling,
over-excited. With morning
my voice tears like rotten cloth.

At night, we are a wire suspended
among trees, tacked to the brick
in a tangle of waving ivy – the distance
between silence and silence.

[TURN TO PAGE 3 FOR ANSWER SPACE]

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HALL TICKET NUMBER

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SECTION II

LITERATURE ESSAY

(MARKS 30)

Write an essay on any ONE of the following in the space provided on pages 9-15. Credit will be given for essays which are sharply focused and suitably illustrated.

1. Modernism and Modernity.
2. The Idea of a Reading Community.
3. Dalit Writing and the Canon.
4. The Relevance of Formalism/New Criticism Today.
5. The Politics of Translation.
6. New Historicism in the Indian Literary Context.
7. Postcolonialism is "business" as usual.
8. The Need for Masculinity Studies.
9. Literature in the Age of the Digital.
10. What's Novel about the Novel?

[TURN TO PAGE 09 FOR ANSWER SPACE]

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SECTION III

LITERATURE: RESEARCH APTITUDE

[MARKS 15]

Write a research proposal on a topic of your choice, in the format given below, in the space provided on pages 19-23.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please do NOT state the obvious or generalize.
2. Cite full names of authors and the full titles of texts you expect/plan to study.
3. Your research methodology paragraph must be accurate in its use of terminology.
4. If your project is interdisciplinary, then it must be demonstrated through an awareness of the research methods, theoretical frameworks and critics/thinkers from more than one discipline, while keeping in mind that your proposal is being submitted to the English department.

Your research proposal **should** be in the following format:

1. *Research question:* that you hope to examine, stated in not more than 2 lines.
2. *Hypothesis/Assumptions:* in not more than **one** paragraph of **4-5** lines – when embarking on this project.
3. *Title.*
4. *Justification:* for doing this kind of project in the English department.
5. *Scope:* A clear demarcation of the area, and a topic within that area.

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6. *Primary Texts:* A detailed paragraph of about **8-10** lines on the media or genres to be studied, authors and texts, any other primary materials, time frames of the works (contemporary, post-1990s, early modern) you will be studying.
7. *Research methods.*
8. *Research methodologies:* Theoretical framework/s with an adequate justification for the choice of methodology/theoretical framework.
9. *Secondary materials:* (i) electronic databases, (ii) a list of at least **8** journals to be consulted for your specific topic, (iii) at least **4-5** journals in the area but not directly around your topic AND (iv) **5** of the more significant critics/commentators who have published influential works around/on your topic.
10. *Reference Works:* A list of at least **5** types of reference works (dictionaries, handbooks, etc) with full titles that you will need for your area and topic.

[TURN TO PAGE 19 FOR ANSWER SPACE]

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