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Reg. No.....

Name.....

M.A. DEGREE (C.S.S.) EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2020

Second Semester

Faculty of Language and Linguistics

Branch I—English

LEN 02 PC 10—THEORIES OF KNOWLEDGE

(2012—2018 Admissions)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum Weight : 30

Part A

I. Answer any *five* of the following, each in a *paragraph* of about 50 words :

- 1 Define Cultural Materialism.
- 2 Which are the two primordial characteristics of the linguistic sign, according to Saussure ?
- 3 What is Bricolage ?
- 4 Which are the uses of history that oppose and correspond to the Platonic modalities of history according to Foucault.
- 5 How does Eagleton view the postmodern prejudice against norms ?
- 6 Which are the essential premises that Abrams shares with traditional historians of Western Culture ?
- 7 How does Bhabha define cultural diversity ?
- 8 Why does Royle describe psychoanalysis as “uncanny” ?

(5 × 1 = 5)

Part B

II. Write short essays of about 100 words on any *five* of the following :

- 9 Why is the death of the Author an inevitable and beneficial occurrence according to Barthes ?
- 10 Explain Post-Theory.

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- 11 How does Miller argue against the univocal reading of a text ?
- 12 Agamben's views on "Biopolitics".
- 13 Edward Said's observations on how Goldmann has adapted Lukacs' theories.
- 14 Bhabha's concept of "Third Space".
- 15 Derrida's attack on structuralism in "Structure, Sign and Play".
- 16 Eagleton's views on the post-colonial shift from politics to culture.

(5 × 2 = 10)

Part C

III. Write essays of about 300 words on any *three* of the following :

- 17 Discuss the key assumptions underlying Post-Structuralism.
- 18 Discuss Lyotard's views on the "Pre-eminence of the narrative form" in the formulation of traditional knowledge.
- 19 Discuss Saussure's views on the nature of the linguistic sign.
- 20 How does Abrams reveal the underlying incoherence in some key precepts of deconstruction promoted by Derrida and embraced by Miller, in "The Deconstructive Angel".
- 21 Comment on Agamben's assessment of Foucault in the "Introduction" to *Homo sacer*.
- 22 How does "The Politics of Amnesia" analyze the shifts in the field of epistemology in the realm of cultural studies ?

(3 × 5 = 15)

