

**M.A. English Language and Literature
(2022 admission onwards)
EL 543: Cultural Studies
Model Question Paper**

Time: 3 hours

Max.Marks:75

I. Answer any *five* of the following questions in about 50 words each.

1. Briefly describe the origin of the Birmingham School of Culture Studies.
2. Define ISA and RSA
3. Explain mass culture with examples.
4. Comment on stereotyping in popular cinema.
5. How does the circuit of culture work?
6. Define subculture with examples.
7. Briefly explain the concept of celebrity culture.
8. How does counter culture work through subversion?

(2x5=10)

II. Answer any *five* of the following questions in about 100 words.

9. Who are the major theorists in culture studies in Britain?
10. Examine racial stereotyping in comics.
11. Explain the concept of cultural capital.
12. What is false consciousness?
13. What is the importance of the Frankfurt School?
14. Discuss interpellation.
15. Why is agency important in class relations?
16. Discuss the shopping mall as a cultural symbol.

(5x5=25)

III. Answer any *two* of the following questions in about 300 words choosing *one* from each group.

Group A

17. "Cultural is ordinary". Discuss.
18. Explain the concepts of encoding and decoding.
19. Trace the historical evolution of culture studies as a discipline.

Group B

20. Discuss how the deceptive mechanism works in the culture industry?
21. Analyze the mechanisms of representation in popular culture through the theoretical lens.
22. Comment on the complex representations of the nation in popular Indian films.

(2x15=30)

IV. Attempt a critical reading of any one of the following texts, using any of the cultural theories prescribed, in about 150 words.

23. "Southern trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root

Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze

Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant South

The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth

Scent of magnolia, sweet and fresh

Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop"

24. Advertisements for gold jewelry/ fairness creams on Indian television.

25. Any one series on television or on the OTT platform.

(1x10=10)