

LITS 2306 HISTORY OF LITERARY CRITICISM

SEMESTER I, 2006/2007

EXAM

Answer TWO (2) questions. If you answer Question 5, please do EITHER 5A OR 5B, but NOT BOTH. Each question requires that you demonstrate knowledge of *at least* TWO thinkers studied in Module 2 of this course. The two thinkers that you use to answer your first question should not be used to answer your second question. Your answers are to be in essay format.

1. Contrast the notion of an 'essential self' with that of a 'socially constructed self' with reference to the views of at least TWO (2) critical thinkers.
2. "Genius occurs at the expense of judgment." Discuss with reference to the views of at least TWO (2) theorists.
3. To what extent can the literary text be expected to offer an objective representation of nature? Answer with reference to at least TWO (2) theorists.
4. Taine declares that "I am about to write the history of a literature, and to seek in it for the psychology of a people." Discuss, with reference to any TWO (2) of the following literary critics:
 - § Hippolyte Taine
 - § Kamau Brathwaite
 - § Matthew Arnold
 - § Virginia Woolf
 - § T.S. Eliot.

5A. EITHER

Discuss Matthew Arnold's concept of 'disinterested criticism' with reference to ONE (1) of the following:

- § Judith Fetterley
- § Chinua Achebe
- § Kenneth Ramchand

5B. OR

"The theory of criticism is largely a subjective process." Critically assess this statement with reference to any TWO (2) of the following critics:

- § Anatole France
- § Walter Pater
- § Judith Fetterley
- § Chinua Achebe
- § Kenneth Ramchand
- § Matthew Arnold
- § I.A. Richards.

END OF EXAM