



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, JABI, ABUJA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
2025_2 EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 813

COURSE TITLE: LITERARY THEORY AND PRACTICAL CRITICISM

CREDIT UNIT: 3 CREDIT UNITS

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER QUESTION ONE (1) AND TWO OTHERS

1.
 - i. Name five modern literary theories and five modern literary theorists you know.
5 marks
 - ii. What are some of the benefits of applying a theory in the study of literature?
7 marks
 - iii. In A. N. Jeffares' assumption in *A History of Literary Criticism* (1991), what knowledge must the literary critic arm himself with before engaging a literary work? 12 marks
2.
 - i. Who is a literary critic? 6 marks
 - ii. Highlight and discuss the formalist and Marxist critics' different areas of focus in their engagement with the literary text. 17 marks
3.
 - i. Name the three different parts of the human mind identified by Sigmund Freud and discuss the function of one of them. 9 marks
 - ii. Psychoanalysis is based on the belief that all actions are influenced by the unconscious. Discuss this view with close reference to a literary text you are familiar with. 14 marks
4.
 - i. Highlight the specific purpose and procedure of a deconstructionist reading of a literary text. 8 marks
 - ii. Use the procedure highlighted in (i) above to attempt a reading of a literary text of your choice. 15 marks

5.

- i. Explain the place of James George Frazer in the development of the archetypal criticism/theory. 10 marks
- ii. What is the focus of the archetypal critical reader of literature? 13 marks