

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

LITERARY THEORY
ECL 503

ENGLISH HONOURS

NOVEMBER

2018

OPEN BOOK (PRESCRIBED TEXTS)

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Time: FOUR HOURS

Subject: ECL503

Marks: 100

This paper consists of 3 pages including the cover page

Internal Examiners
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External Examiners
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INSTRUCTIONS

**ANSWER THREE QUESTIONS. AT LEAST ONE FROM SECTION A
AND ONE FROM SECTION B.**

SECTION A

QUESTION 1.

Plato *The Republic*

Assess the legitimacy of Plato's contention that imitation is a valueless practice, and therefore that literature, being a "mirror of nature", is equally of no value.

QUESTION 2.

Aristotle *The Poetics*

Discuss Aristotle's challenge to Plato's contention that literature which depicts destructive or humorous actions is socially undesirable.

QUESTION 3.

Samuel Johnson "Preface to Shakespeare"

Why does Johnson deem it necessary to rebut arguments around Shakespeare's alleged lack of moral sense, and how does he go about this rebuttal?

QUESTION 4.

William Wordsworth "Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads*"

Discuss the influence of Aristotle on Wordsworth's declared intention to represent "humble and rustic life" in his poetry.

QUESTION 5.

Matthew Arnold "The Study of Poetry"

Why does Arnold choose to judge "the best poetry" by his "touchstone" technique? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this technique as compared with a set of criteria for "best poetry"?

SECTION B

QUESTION 1.

Discuss T.S. Eliot's theory of poetry and culture as set forth in "Tradition and the Individual Talent" and "The Class and the Elite".

QUESTION 2.

What is the main argument of F.R. Leavis' "Literature and Society"? Use Trotsky's "Revolutionary and Socialist Art" to evaluate Leavis' criticism of Marxism.

QUESTION 3.

Critically analyse Gramsci's "The Intellectuals" and Foucault and Deleuze's "Intellectuals and Power". In what ways, if any, are these arguments relevant to contemporary South Africa?

QUESTION 4.

'Literature is simply entertainment. It is wrong to look for any deeper meaning, particularly political, in texts intended to entertain.'

Discuss this claim. (do not repeat any part of your answers to previous questions)

TOTAL MARKS 100