

HALL TICKET NUMBER

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2025
Ph.D ENGLISH

Max. Time: 2 Hours

Max. Marks: 70

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not reveal your identity in any manner on the **OMR** sheet or answer book.
2. Enter your **Hall Ticket Number** on the **question paper**, the **OMR** sheet and the **answer book**.
3. This question paper consists of two sections.
Part A consists of multiple choice questions on Research Methodology and must be answered in the **OMR** sheet. Each question carries **1 (ONE)** mark. **Part A** carries **35 (THIRTY FIVE)** marks.
Part B must be answered in the answer book provided, and requires you to write a critical essay and a critical analysis of one of the given passages. The essay carries **15 (FIFTEEN)** marks and the critical analysis **20 (TWENTY)** marks. **Part B** carries **35 (THIRTY FIVE)** marks.
This question paper contains **11 (ELEVEN)** printed pages.
4. At the end of the examination return the **OMR** sheet and the **answer book**.

[Turn to Page 2 for PART A]

PART A
Research Methodology

(1 X 35 = 35 Marks)

1. You have just discovered a volume of William Wordsworth's poetry with the numerous edited versions of his poems, accompanied by comments and notes by his later-day editors *and* the original version of the poems. What would you title this edition of Wordsworth?

- A. *Wordsworth's Poetry: The Facsimile Edition*
- B. *Wordsworth's Poetry: The Variorum Edition*
- C. *Wordsworth's Poetry: The Interedition*
- D. *Wordsworth's Poetry: The Manuscript Edition*

2. Match the following:

a) A diplomatic edition	1. attempts to construct a text of a work using all the available evidence
b) A hypertext edition	2. conveys information in a 'non-hierarchic' environment
c) A critical edition	3. facilitates scholarly study of a work in its manuscript context

- A. a-2; b-3; c-1
- B. a-1; b-3; c-2
- C. a-3; b-1; c-2
- D. a-3; b-2; c-1

3. How would you describe the following statement extracted from an article submitted for publication in an academic journal?

Shakespeare must have consciously wanted to set himself apart from the other poets of his era and therefore invented an imaginary male muse for his sonnets as a way of departing from the predictable heteronormative formula of romantic love and courtship.

- A. Deduction
- B. Generalization
- C. Speculation
- D. Projection

4. A thesis statement can be best described as -----.

- A. A sentence/set of sentences presenting your key argument
- B. A set of sentences that introduces your source materials
- C. The table of contents of your dissertation
- D. Examples presented as evidence

5. A researcher has extensively listed in the Bibliography of his PhD dissertation multiple articles sourced from journals like *Hypatia*, *Signs*, *Differences* and *Frontiers*. Which theoretical paradigm do you think he has employed in his doctoral work?

- A. Posthumanism
- B. Ecocriticism
- C. Feminism
- D. Psychoanalysis

6. An annotated bibliography -----.

- A. annotates the author's location and position in academia
- B. offers a crisp description and evaluation of the material
- C. gives details about the publishing house and its longevity
- D. offers information about a book's sales figures

7. Which logical fallacy does the following statement commit?

V.S. Naipaul's portrayal of Indian characters is prejudiced and unflattering because he is a bitter and angry man who looks down upon people from Third World countries.

- A. *Ad hominem*
- B. Slippery Slope
- C. Circular argument
- D. *Ad populum*

8. What is 'hanging indentation'?

- A. The first and subsequent lines of each entry are indented half an inch from the left margin in the works-cited list
- B. The third and subsequent lines of each entry of references are indented half an inch from the left margin in the works-cited list
- C. The second and subsequent lines of each entry of references are indented half an inch from the left margin in the works-cited list
- D. The first line of each entry of references is indented half an inch from the left margin in the works-cited list

Read the passage below and respond to questions 9 to 11 that follow:

Beyond Britain, the investigation of 'culture' developed a distinct anthropological, sociological and ethnological focus, where the debate revolved, in part, around the conflict between empiricist concerns with 'patterns of behaviour' and idealist questions of 'ideas' and 'values'. The shift away from 'patterns of behaviour' and towards 'other symbolic-meaningful systems as factors in the shaping of human behaviour' opened the way for the study of culture as a 'semiotic field', and to the possibilities of reading culture as text.

9. When we read culture as text -----.

- A. we accord ideas the power to shape behavioural practices
- B. we restore the primary agency of behavioural practices
- C. we see empiricism as the most valuable tool of analysis
- D. we move beyond symbolic systems

10. Attention to semiotics means -----.
- A. search for material means of production
 - B. analysis of signification and meaning making
 - C. avoidance of systems of symbols
 - D. study of empirical observation.
11. The passage above suggests that -----.
- A. The claims of Sociology are less concerned with empiricism
 - B. Ethnology is more concerned with the work of ideas
 - C. Anthropology and Sociology are more concerned with behavioural patterns
 - D. Anthropology is not concerned with cultural analysis
12. If you are examining the writing conventions (spelling, hyphenation, punctuation, emphasis) in a language what field of study would you be in?
- A. Orthography
 - B. Phonology
 - C. Typography
 - D. Lexicology
13. In your project, you expect to demonstrate that the forewords, titles, introductions, prefaces in a group of texts by A.K. Ramanujan are themselves worthy of analysis as texts. When you title your project, you need to indicate how these textual elements may be classified and grouped. Using one of the labels for such a group of textual elements, fill in the blanks in the hypothetical title of your project:
- Reading A.K. Ramanujan's -----: A Study of Forewords, Afterwords, Prefaces, Epigraphs and Subtitles
- A. Hypotexts
 - B. Hypertexts
 - C. Paratexts
 - D. Epitexts
14. Which citation style is commonly used in English literary research in India?
- A. APA
 - B. MLA
 - C. Chicago
 - D. IEEE
15. If a researcher currently working on William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* adopts the method of "contrapuntal reading", s/he will use as evidence _____.
- A. only the text's dominant ideological position vis-a-vis questions of race and class articulated by its central plot and action
 - B. only the contextual background of the text insofar as it pertains to how the socio-historical conditions inform the author's views
 - C. both the dominant and the repressed or marginalized voices as inter-connected discourses operating through the text
 - D. records of the text's review by critics and audience of the age and a contrastive account of

its reception in our own times

16. Higher Educational institutions in India and many other countries today insist on researchers and faculty publishing only in Q1 and Q2 journals. What does the Q stand for?

- A. Quality
- B. Quantum
- C. Quadrant
- D. Quartile

17. What is EEBO?

- A. A digital archive of over 300 scholarly journals published by the Modern Language Association in English
- B. A database to locate relevant modern English literary criticism
- C. A database to view recent issues of scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences
- D. A digital collection of over 100,000 published books, tracts, and pamphlets from 1473 to 1700 in England.

18. When looking for journal essays in your specific research area, which of the following should be seen as red flags?

- I. A contents page for the journal which lists upward of 60 to 70 essays, each of 3 to 4 pages
 - II. Each journal issue with hundreds of pages
 - III. An essay on English Literary studies appearing alongside one on national budgets and another on dietary requirements for diabetics
 - IV. Essays which each feature typographical and factual errors
- A. I, II and IV
 - B. II, III and IV
 - C. I, II, III, IV
 - D. Only I and IV

19. A researcher might occasionally find an essay which is insightful and rigorous in a word document format on the internet. If one wants to use it for one's research, what does one need to do?

- A. Use it and then cite it with just the author's name in the bibliographical citation
- B. Locate its originary details and cite those details in the bibliography
- C. Ignore the citation details altogether and use the insights without citation
- D. Check the original venue and use that version, in the bibliographical citation

20. Under which school of criticism would you group the following thinkers?

Geoffrey Hartman, J. Hillis Miller, Paul de Man

- A. American Deconstruction
- B. French Psychoanalysis
- C. European Formalism
- D. British Materialism

21. In an MLA formatted essay, page numbers are located at -----.
- the top left header
 - the bottom right footer
 - the bottom left footer
 - the top right header
22. In feminist literary research, "standpoint theory" implies:
- Every text has one fixed meaning
 - The researcher's background shapes her/his interpretation
 - All interpretations are universal
 - Readers' views are irrelevant
23. In academic writing, what does the abbreviation *loc. cit.* signify?
- a reference from the same page or passage that has been previously cited in the essay
 - a reference to an earlier work by the same author that has been cited before in the essay
 - a reference that has been repeated in multiple passages of various texts cited previously
 - a reference whose original source is untraceable but that occurs multiple times in the essay
24. Which of the following has as its tagline, "The historical English dictionary"?
- American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*
 - Collins English Dictionary*
 - Oxford English Dictionary*
 - Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*

25. Match the following:

a) cf.	i. The abbreviation means "the same person." It is used when the same author is cited but not the same page number.
b) passim	ii. It is typically used to introduce examples or further details to illustrate a point.
c) id.	iii. It is generally preceded by citations of works that are sources for the author's argument and then followed by one or two examples of works that somehow differ from or depart from the argument.
d) viz.	iv. It is used when a particular word, phrase or idea is not restricted to just a few pages of a work, but occurs in many different places.

- a) iii; b) iv; c) i; d) ii.
- a) ii; b) iv; c) i; d) iii.
- a) iii; b) i; c) iv; d) ii.
- a) iv; b) iii; c) i; d) ii.

26. In digital publishing, ORCID ID is concerned with -----.

- A. providing unique researcher identification
- B. identifying the research institution
- C. tracking a research paper online
- D. tracking archival data online

Read the passage and respond to questions 27 to 29 that follow:

“...Lovejoy gives no distinctive status to literature: it is a mode of cultural expression – what we might today call a ‘discursive field’ – like many others, for the study of which one needs specialised disciplinary skills as well as broad linguistic experience and openness (Lovejoy was an early advocate of comparative literature), but which ultimately can be understood and evaluated in terms of the ‘ideas’ it contains and transmits.”

27. The passage speaks of a particular method of research and analysis. This method is best described as:

- A. Practical Criticism
- B. New Historicism
- C. Formalism
- D. History of Ideas

28. When we assign no “distinctive status” to literature, it means -----.

- A. literary language can claim an exceptional status
- B. self-referentiality of literary language is given less significance
- C. specialized analytic skills are not required for literary studies
- D. literary analysis is viewed as an isolated practice

29. The concept of the “discursive field” entails -----.

- A. a comparative awareness
- B. a dogged resistance to openness
- C. a disavowal of disciplinary boundaries
- D. an argument for disciplinary isolationism

30. On sites like arXiv, ChemRxiv, PsyArXiv, you find scholarly research essays. Which of the following statements would best describe the type of essays on these sites?

- A. A version of the academic paper immediately after peer review.
- B. A version of the academic paper before peer review.
- C. An academic paper which does not cite any print sources.
- D. An academic paper which cites only print sources

31. If you were working on an essay dealing with gossip, rumour, telling-tales, which of the following journals would be the best choice for publishing?

- A. *International Journal of Listening*
- B. *International Journal of Rumourology*
- C. *International Journal of Speech Acts*
- D. *Journal of Informetrics*

32. Your project seeks to understand the circulation of two books, M.K. Gandhi’s *Hind Swaraj*

and Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom*, via local and national libraries. After compiling the list of borrowers and readers, the frequency of borrowing and the number of times each book has been borrowed, you set out to analyze patterns of borrowing and therefore, by inference, readership. Which of the following methods would you say you adopted for the project?

- A. Intersectional Analysis
- B. Data Mining
- C. Visual Culture
- D. Orthographic Studies

33. Identify the problem with the following statement made by a researcher examining the role of contemporary popular print, television and digital advertisements in the construction of cultural notions of masculinity.

Glamourized, aspirational representations of the "ideal", perpetually youthful and energetic masculine body, often enhanced visually through technological means, present impossible standards of beauty and health to young male viewers.

- A. The argument is based on hasty generalization.
- B. The argument confuses the effect for the cause.
- C. The argument begs the claim that it seeks to prove.
- D. The argument is based on unverified popular opinion.

34. Insisting on the agentic properties of matter, the role of relations and processes between elements and the collapse of borders between the living and non-living is a feature of a contemporary school of critical theory called -----.

- A. New Materialism
- B. New Historicism
- C. New Earth Studies
- D. New Imperial Studies

35. "The transformation of the superstructure, which takes place far more slowly than that of the substructure, has taken more than half a century to manifest in all areas of culture the change in the conditions of production. Only today can it be indicated which form this has taken. Certain prognostic requirements should be met by these statements. However, theses about the art of the proletariat after its assumption of power or about the art of a classless society would have less bearing on these demands than theses about the developmental tendencies of art under present conditions of production. Their dialectic is no less noticeable in the superstructure than in the economy. It would therefore be wrong to underestimate the value of such theses as a weapon."

This passage is an instance of:

- A. Feminist criticism
- B. Ecocriticism
- C. Phenomenology
- D. Marxist criticism

PART B

Essay (15 Marks)

Write an essay on **ANY ONE** of the topics:

1. Animals as an index of humanity in Literature
2. The idea of India in English Literature
3. Lying and liars in Literature
4. Gendered Nature in Romantic Literature
5. Artificial Intelligence and the production of literature
6. Childhood and adolescence in Indian Writing in English
7. Literature as the construction of reality

Critical Analysis (20 marks)

Analyse **EITHER** the poem **OR** the prose passage given below in accordance with the instructions for each.

Poem:

Q. Analyse the following poem titled “You’re Not Black” by Amy Saunders through the lens of racial discrimination.

You’re Not Black
 I sit with them at lunch
 Fried chicken on my plate
 I eat with a knife and fork
 “You’re not black, if you don’t use your hands to eat”
Yet I know that hands tied up the strange fruit on the trees in the south
The fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop

I don’t recognise the Caribbean music, or the Afrobeats
 I only know of Liszt, Chopin and Ludovico Einaudi
 Whose names you’ve probably never heard
 “You’re not black, if you don’t know this beat”
 Yet, I am familiar with the beat of pounding
 Pounding of sugar cane, the whipping of backs
 The cries and screams of my ancestors
 Ring loud in my head centuries later

So how dare you? How dare you put me down!
 Question my ethnicity, I’m still a shade of brown

And I'm sorry if I don't live up to your 'black norms'
 But I live in a world with segregated dorms
 Society crushes me, tells me I'm ugly
 But copies my features, they must think it's funny
 I'm not trying to in any way be mean
 But I live in a society covered in white sheen
 Sorry to Bother You, but I should Get Out
 'Cause The Hate U Give leaves me with no doubt
 That I am not The Help, the help that you need
 But the Hidden Figures are clear to see
 That I should stop trying to be 'Black' and just try to be
 Me

OR

Prose Passage:

Q. Write an essay in which you elaborate how the passage makes a case for an "ecology without nature".

One of the ideas inhibiting genuinely ecological politics, ethics, philosophy, and art is the idea of nature itself. Nature, a transcendental term in a material mask, stands at the end of a potentially infinite series of other terms that collapse into it, otherwise known as a metonymic list: fish, grass, mountain air, chimpanzees, love, soda water, freedom of choice, heterosexuality, free markets . . . Nature. A metonymic series becomes a metaphor. Writing conjures this notoriously slippery term, useful to ideologies of all kinds in its very slipperiness, in its refusal to maintain any consistency. But consistency is what nature is all about, on another level. Saying that something is unnatural is saying that it does not conform to a norm, so "normal" that it is built into the very fabric of things as they are. So "nature" occupies at least three places in symbolic language. First, it is a mere empty placeholder for a host of other concepts. Second, it has the force of law, a norm against which deviation is measured. Third, "nature" is a Pandora's box, a word that encapsulates a potentially infinite series of disparate fantasy objects . . . A "discipline" of diving into the Rorschach blobs of others' enjoyment that we commonly call poems seems a highly appropriate way of beginning to engage with how "nature" compels feelings and beliefs.

Nature wavers in between the divine and the material. Far from being something "natural" itself, nature hovers over things like a ghost. It slides over the infinite list of things that evoke it. Nature is thus not unlike "the subject," a being who searches through the entire universe for its reflection, only to find none. If it is just another word for supreme authority, then why not just call it God? But if this God is nothing outside the material world, then why not just call it matter? This was the political dilemma in which Spinoza, and the deists of eighteenth-century Europe, found themselves. Being an "out" atheist was very dangerous in the eighteenth century, as evidenced by the cryptic remarks of Hume and the increasingly cautious approach of Percy Shelley, who had been expelled from Oxford for publishing a pamphlet on atheism. God often appeared on the side of royal authority, and the rising bourgeoisie and associated revolutionary classes wanted another way of being authoritative. "Ecology without nature" means in part that we try to confront some of the intense notions which nature smudges.

Ecological writing is fascinated with the idea of something that exists in between polarized

terms such as God and matter, this and that, subject and object. I find John Locke's critique of the idea of ether to be helpful here. Locke's critique appeared toward the beginning of the modern construction of space as an empty set of point coordinates. Numerous holes in materialist, atomist theories were filled by something elemental. Newton's gravity worked because of an ambient ether that transmitted the properties of heavy bodies instantaneously, in an analogy for (or as an aspect of) the love of an omnipresent God. If ether is a kind of "ambient fluid" that surrounds all particles, existing "in between" them, then what surrounds the particles of ambient fluid themselves? If nature is sandwiched between terms such as God and matter, what medium keeps the things that are natural sandwiched together? Nature appears to be both lettuce and mayonnaise. Ecological writing shuffles subject and object back and forth so that we may think they have dissolved into each other...

Timothy Morton, *Dark Ecology*

Answer Key PhD English UoH 2025

1. B
2. D
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. B
7. A
8. C
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. A
13. C
14. B
15. C
16. D
17. D
18. C
19. D
20. A
21. D
22. B
23. A
24. C
25. A
26. A
27. D
28. B
29. A
30. B
31. A
32. B
33. C
34. A
35. D