



ஸ்ரீ-ல-ஸ்ரீ காசிவாசி சுவாமிநாத சுவாமிகள் கலைக் கல்லூரி  
தீருப்பனந்தாள் - 612504

**S.K.S.S ARTS COLLEGE, THIRUPPANANDAL - 612504**



## **QUESTION BANK**

*Title of the Paper*

# **PRINCIPLES OF LITERARY CRITICISM**

**16ACCEN10**

**Course: III B.A (ENG)**

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**CORE COURSE X**  
**PRINCIPLES OF LITERARY CRITICISM**

**Objectives:**

To acquaint learners with the knowledge of history of literary criticism, its various trends and schools

To help learners apply literary theory to texts in order to enrich their understanding and appreciation of literature

To make learners understand Wilbur Scott's five approaches to literature

**Unit – I**

Literary Theory – Literary History – Literary Criticism

**Unit – II**

Classical Criticism:

Plato – Aristotle – Horace – Quintilian – Longinus

**Unit – III**

Orientation of Critical Theories:

Mimetic Theories – Pragmatic Theories – Sidney – Dryden – Dr. Johnson – Coleridge – Arnold – T. S. Eliot

**Unit – IV**

Five Approaches:

Moralistic Approach

Psychological Approach

**Unit – V**

Archetypal Approach

Sociological Approach

Formalistic Approach

**Textbook:**

Ravindranathan, S. A Handbook on Principles of Literary Criticism (From Plato to Post - modernism). Chennai: Emerald Publishers, 2006.

## UNIT - I

### 2 Marks :

- 11) What is the basic meaning of the word 'literature'?
- 12) Why is literature unique and why is it that we cannot define it easily?
- 13) What is the function of literature according to Horace?
- 14) Distinguish between 'literary theory' and 'literary criticism'.
- 15) What do you mean by 'perspectivism'?
- 16) What is the primary task of a literary historian?
- 17) What is a period in literary history?
- 18) What are the two activities of a literary historian?
- 19) How do you get the word 'criticism'?
- 20) What is academic criticism?

### 5 Marks :

- 21) Define literature. What is its nature?
- 22) What is the function of literature?
- 23) Explain what is literary History?
- 24) What is the major task of a Literary Historian?.
- 25) What is the function of a Literary Historian?
- 26) What are the two forms of activity of a Literary Historian?
- 27) Explain what is literary criticism?.
- 28) Division of periods in Literary History
- 29) What is the Literary Theory?
- 30) Explain how Literary Theory cannot be studies in isolation.

### 10 Marks :

- 31) What is the literature?
- 32) What is literary theory? Explain how literary theory cannot be studies in isolation,
- 33) What are the features of Literary History?
- 34) Explain the four theories of spiller concerning Literary History.

- 35) What is Literary Criticism? What are its features?.
- 36) Explain the function and major task of a Literary Historian.
- 37) What is literature function?
- 38) What are the principles of academic criticism?
- 39) What is the nature of literature?
- 40) Discuss the features of Academic Criticism..

## UNIT - II

### 2Marks :

- 1) What is considered to be the first classical critic? What is the work?
- 2) What is the critical work of Plato? What is its form?
- 3) What are the two types of art, according to Plato?
- 4) Why does Plato hate drama?
- 5) What are the advantages of the Epic over Tragedy?
- 6) What does Horace mean by simple theme?
- 7) What are the major qualities of a satirist?
- 8) What are the sources of sublime?
- 9) What do you mean by 'Asyndeton'?
- 10) What is 'hyperbaton'?

### 5 Marks :

- 11) Write on Plato's Theory of Ideas.
- 12) Critically examine Plato's observations on poetry.
- 13) Write on Plato's observation on Drama.
- 14) Comment on Plato's principles, of good speech.
- 15) How does Aristotle define tragedy? Explain.
- 16) Comment on Aristotle's observations on characterization in a tragedy.
- 17) Write on Aristotle's concept of Plot in a Tragedy.
- 18) What does Horace say about the Nature and Function of Poetry?
- 19) Explain Horace's Views on Satire.

20) What does Horace say about the plot in drama?

**10 Marks :**

21) Discuss Plato's Theory of Art.

22) Give an account of Aristotle's Poetics.

23) How does Aristotle define tragedy? Describe six elements of tragedy.

24) Write on Horace's observation on poetry.

25) Write an essay on Horace's observations on drama.

26) Write on Quintilian's observation on style.

27) Discuss Longinus's concept of the sublime.

28) What does Longinus say about the grandeur of thought?

29) Comment on the views of Longinus on Nobility of Diction.

30) What does Quintilian say about Language of Daily Life?

**UNIT - III**

**2 Marks :**

1) What is the frame of reference given by M.H.Abrams to study criticism?

2) What is Mimetic criticism?

3) What do you mean by poetic justice?

4) In what sense is poetry superior to philosophy and history?

5) Point out the importance of Dryden in the history of English criticism.

6) When and why did Dryden publish his 'Essay of Dramatic poesis'?

7) Who is Neander? What is his argument?

8) How does Johnson treat art?

9) How does Johnson defend Shakespeare's tragic-comedies?

10) What is the great principle of Johnson's criticism?

**5 Marks :**

11) What a note on Mimetic theories.

12) Explain Pragmatic Theories.

13) What does Sidney say about the antiquity of poetry?



- 14) In what sense is a poet a creator?
- 15) How is poetry superior to philosophy and history, according to Sidney?
- 16) Explain Dryden's definition of drama?
- 17) What is the argument of Crites in favour of the Ancient dramatists?
- 18) How does Eugenius defend the Moderns?
- 19) What does Lisideius say about the French drama?
- 20) How does Neander defend the English drama against the French?

**10 Marks :**

- 21) What are the four major theories of criticism?
- 22) Consider Sir Philip Sidney as a critic.
- 23) Summarise the critical ideas gathered from Dryden's "Essay of Dramatic Poesie".
- 24) Discuss Dr. Johnson as a critic.
- 25) Comment on Johnson's treatment of Art.
- 26) What are Johnson's views on Shakespeare?
- 27) Write on Johnson's emphasis on Moral Truth.
- 28) Neander's vindication of the English Drama.
- 29) Poet is superior to historian and philosopher.
- 30) Write a note on Dryden as a comparative critic.

**UNIT - IV**

**2 Marks :**

- 1) What is called Moral Approach to literature?
- 2) What do the Formalistic critics do?
- 3) What is meant by sociological approach?
- 4) Distinguish between an artist and a moralist?
- 5) What is the function of art, according to D.H. Lawrence?
- 6) Mention the names of some of the Neo-Humanists
- 7) On whom is the term 'Christian humanist' first applied? Why?
- 8) What does Freud say about a creative writer?

- 9) What is Oedipus complex?
- 10) What is Collective Unconscious?

**5 Marks :**

- 11) What are the five types of approaches to criticism?
- 12) What is Moral Approach to Criticism?
- 13) Comment on the principles of Neo-Humanism.
- 14) Explain the tenets of Christian humanism.
- 15) What do you know about Neo-Humanism from Babbitt's essay "Genius & Taste"?
- 16) Why does Edmund Fuller condemn New Compassion?
- 17) What is Psychological Criticism?
- 18) What is the role of Psychology in criticism?
- 19) What does Freud say about man being a victim of libidinous urges?
- 20) What are the three psychic zones according to Freud?

**10 Marks :**

- 21) Write an Essay on Moralistic Approach to Criticism.
- 22) Write on 'Neo-Humanism' and Christian Humanism.
- 23) Write on the Psychological Approach to Literature.
- 24) Discuss the contribution of Carl Jung to Psychology.
- 25) Write notes on Freud's concept of 'Id', 'Ego' and 'Super Ego'.
- 26) Explain Freud's concept that "all art is neurosis".
- 27) Who is Carl Jung? What is his main theory of psychology?
- 28) What are three concepts of Jung's Collective Unconscious?
- 29) Explain how Ernest Jones applies Freudian theory to explain Shakespeare's character Hamlet?
- 30) Explain how Geoffrey Gorer applies the theory of Electra Complex to explain the characters of Jane Austen's novels.

## UNIT - V

### 2 Marks :

- 1) Why is Archetypal criticism very popular today?
- 2) What is archetypal approach?
- 3) What do you understand by vegetation myths?
- 4) What are the two chief objections against archetypal criticism?
- 5) Who is Orestes?
- 6) How does Wilbur Scott define archetypal approach?
- 7) What is a ritual?
- 8) What is Sociological criticism?
- 9) What is Marxist criticism?
- 10) How do Marx and Engels define art?

### 5 Marks :

- 11) Explain what is Archetypal approach.
- 12) Write a note on the development of Archetypal criticism.
- 13) Discuss the relation between myth and archetypal criticism.
- 14) What are the functions of an archetypal critic?
- 15) Comments on some of the objections raised against Archetypal criticism.
- 16) How does Gilbert Murray compare Orestes and Hamlet?
- 17) In what sense can you call Milton's "Lycidas" as a perfect example as archetypal pattern?
- 18) Trace the development of Sociological Criticism.
- 19) Explain Taine's formula about Sociological Criticism.
- 20) Write a note on the reciprocal relationship between literature and society.

### 10 marks :

- 21) Explain the features of the Archetypal Criticism.
- 22) What features, according to Gilbert Murray, are common to Shakespeare's Hamlet and the Greek character, Orestes?
- 23) What is the connection between literature and social conditions?
- 24) Write an Essay on Marxist Criticism.



- 25) Write an Essay on the Features of Formalistic Approach to Criticism.
- 26) Write an essay on New Criticism and New Critics.
- 27) What are the three factors that determine the relations between literature and society?
- 28) What is Marxism and Marxist Criticism?
- 29) Comment on Marxist view of Art and Literature.
- 30) How does Cleanth Brooks analyse "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and come to the conclusion that the line "Beauty is Truth" grows out of the poem?

