**Year Twelve ATAR English**

**Unit Three Journal Programme 2020**

**Literary Theory Quiz**

**The following is a guide for possible responses from students.**

1. What is the purpose of using literary theories in literature?

Literary Theories are approaches or tools that are used to analyse the concepts and ideas that are presented in literature.

1. Post colonialism.

Post colonialism is a study of the consequences of control and exploitation of colonial people and their lands. Colonialism is presented as self-ascribed racial and cultural superiority of the Western world over the non-Western world.

Edward Said came up with the concept of the “Oriental Other” where all the cultures of the East were described and explained by the colonialists as “Oriental”.

The orientalist paradigm allowed the European scholars to represent the East (Orient) as backward, irrational and wild. This is opposed to the Western Europe that was represented as progressive, superior, rational and civil.

1. Discuss the following:

Diaspora, Mimicry and Third Space.

Diaspora- Changing world and emerging multicultural society due to worldwide immigration.

Mimicry- A situation when members of a colonial society imitate and takes on the culture of their colonisers.

Third space- A zone that develops when individuals of two or more separate cultures interact.

1. Psychoanalytical Theory

Discusses the psychological motivation behind certain human behaviours.

Freud chooses to interpret all human actions on the ground of deep seated sexual inhibitions.

Jung levels human functioning as a combination of three parts: the shadow self (subconscious); the persona (conscious social self); and the anima (the soul). Any disparity between the three can result in imbalance.

1. Feminist Theory

Feminist Theory suggests that women are overpowered and domineered by men in a patriarchal society. It suggests that cultural and economic suppression of women has prevented them from achieving their creative potential. The theory also challenges the traditional gender roles.

1. Marxist Theory

A Marxist critic typically attempts to explain the literature of any era by revealing the economy and class system in the text and determines the relation of the text to the social reality of that time and place. According to this theory the whole human population can be divided into two classes: the bourgeoisie (wealthy and affluent class) and the proletariat (poor working class). The socioeconomic situation is the ultimate source of our experience.

1. Postmodernist Theory

Questions the values and ideas associated with art and literature. It suggests that irrespective of an author’s purpose and motivation, the reader’s perception ultimately decides the interpretation given to a text.

1. Gender or Queer Theory

Debates on whether sexuality and gender might just be a social construction and should be subjected to change. Identity is not born, but is constructed through repeated performative actions and is informed by the existing social constructions of gender.

1. Hierarchical vs Holistic Narratives

Hierarchical narratives privilege human lives above all other lives, whereas, holistic narratives refuse to privilege human lives over other biological lives at large.

1. Collectivism vs Individualism

Collective societies are organisations where an individual is subordinated to a social collectivity such as a state, nation, race, or a social class.

Individualism, on the other hand believes that every individual has the right to live life the way they want.

1. Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism holds that the most ethical choice is the one that will produce the greatest good for the greatest number.

1. Categorical Imperative

Explains that the morality of a choice is based on why we make a choice, irrespective of the consequences.