

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad

Thinking and Knowing in the Human Sciences 2, HS0.202
End Semester Exam
Date-28/11/2025

Max Time: 180 Minutes

Max Marks: 40

Answer the following questions as per the instructions provided:

Part 1: Answer any one of the following two questions in approximately 800 words each

Q1) What was the historical context for the emergence of social history and what are its main historiographical interventions? How did the work of E.P. Thompson epitomise the what the social history movement stood for? (15)

Or

Q2) What are the two main approaches adopted by scholars for studying ‘culture’? How do they get reflected in the discernible phases in the development of cultural history as a specific historiographical lens? (15)

Part 2: Answer any one of the following two questions in approximately 800 words each:

Q3) How does structural linguistics explain the concepts of *langue* and *parole* and *signifier* and *signified*? How have they been adopted by social scientists and humanists in their work? Elaborate by using examples. (15)

Or

Q4) How does poststructuralism differ from structuralism as a methodological approach? Following from this, reflect on Jacques Derrida’s conceptualisation of deconstruction and why it is considered a major point of departure from our conventional understanding of text and meaning. (15)

Part 3: Answer both of the following two questions in approximately 400 words each:

Q5) Write a short note on Orientalism. (5)

Q6) Reflect on who is the ‘subaltern’ at the centre of the Subaltern Studies school of historiography? (5)