

MA Exam Themes

Theory and Criticism

Development of the Theory of the Novel

What are the basic theories of the novel?

Has the theory of the novel developed since the early 1900s?

Is there a theory of the novel?

Influence of 20th century French philosophy on literary theory

Who are the main 20th century French philosophers and what are their main theories?

Did 20th century literary theory completely depend on contemporary French philosophy?

Feminist literary theory from the mid-20th century to today

How is “feminist literary theory” defined?

Feminist literary theory: is it still relevant?

Narratology

What is “narratology”?

What is narratology good for and what are its failures?

Development of literary theory in the 20th century

What are the main figures and ideas in literary theory in the 20th century?

How did literary theory change from Modernism to Postmodernism?

Deconstruction

What is Deconstruction?

How does Deconstruction affect the production and reception of literature?

Why and how did Deconstruction develop in America? Did it respond to previous concepts and theories?

New Criticism

What is New Criticism? Who are the major influences on new-critical theory? What role has New Criticism played in the Anglo-American literary context?

Why and how did New Criticism develop in American literary studies?

Structuralism

What is Structuralism? How did it develop over the 20th century and what are the main figures and concepts? Why and when did it become less popular in literary studies?

How are Structuralist concepts used to study literature? What is an example of a Structuralist view of a particular literary work?

Psychoanalysis

What is psychoanalytic literary theory?

Who are the main figures in psychoanalytic literary theory and criticism? How has it changed over the years?

What kinds of readings of literary texts does psychoanalytic theory allow?