

**BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI**  
**K.K. BIRLA GOA CAMPUS, GOA – 403 726**  
**FIRST SEMESTER (2019)**  
**Mid-semester Examination**

**Course Title: Ecocriticism | Course Code: HSS F349 | Max Marks: 25**  
**Max Time: 1.5 hrs. | Date: 05-10-2019 | Time: 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

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**Instructions:** In the following, be sure that you write in complete sentences, do not use bullet points, and write in ink (please). Please also avoid allusiveness and create essays that stand on their own. Your essays should include a brief introduction and conclusion, along with the body of the essay, and should be organized into paragraphs. Please remember that these are analytical essays, not simply information ones, and that your essays will need to have an analysis/argument, with supporting evidence and examples. The grade will depend not only on the quality of your argument but on how well you express it here. All questions are essay questions. Do not attempt Section I if you are answering Section II.

**Section - I**

1. What are the eight-fold deep ecological principles? Give suitable examples to explain each. (Marks: 5; write in not more than one page; 100 words)
2. Analyse the poem deep ecologically in about 150 words (1.5 pages): (Marks: 10)

**Snake (D.H. Lawrence)**

A snake came to my water-trough  
On a hot, hot day, and I in pyjamas for the heat,  
To drink there.

In the deep, strange-scented shade of the great dark carob tree  
I came down the steps with my pitcher  
And must wait, must stand and wait, for there he was at the trough  
before me.

He reached down from a fissure in the earth-wall in the gloom  
And trailed his yellow-brown slackness soft-bellied down, over  
the edge of the stone trough  
And rested his throat upon the stone bottom,  
And where the water had dripped from the tap, in a small clearness,  
He sipped with his straight mouth,  
Softly drank through his straight gums, into his slack long body,  
Silently.

Someone was before me at my water-trough,  
And I, like a second-comer, waiting.

He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do,  
And looked at me vaguely, as drinking cattle do,  
And flickered his two-forked tongue from his lips, and mused  
a moment,  
And stooped and drank a little more,

Being earth-brown, earth-golden from the burning  
bowels of the earth  
On the day of Sicilian July, with Etna smoking.

The voice of my education said to me  
He must be killed,  
For in Sicily the black, black snakes are innocent, the  
gold are venomous.

And voices in me said, If you were a man  
You would take a stick and break him now, and finish  
him off.

But must I confess how I liked him,  
How glad I was he had come like a guest in quiet, to  
drink at my water-trough  
And depart peaceful, pacified, and thankless,  
Into the burning bowels of this earth?

Was it cowardice, that I dared not kill him?  
Was it perversity, that I longed to talk to him?  
Was it humility, to feel so honoured?  
I felt so honoured.

And yet those voices:  
*If you were not afraid, you would kill him!*

And truly I was afraid, I was most afraid,  
But even so, honoured still more  
That he should seek my hospitality  
From out the dark door of the secret earth.

He drank enough  
And lifted his head, dreamily, as one who has drunken,  
And flickered his tongue like a forked night on the air, so black,  
Seeming to lick his lips,  
And looked around like a god, unseeing, into the air,  
And slowly turned his head,  
And slowly, very slowly, as if thrice adream,  
Proceeded to draw his slow length curving round  
And climb again the broken bank of my wall-face.

And as he put his head into that dreadful hole,  
And as he slowly drew up, snake-easing his shoulders,  
and entered farther,  
A sort of horror, a sort of protest against his withdrawing into  
that horrid black hole,  
Deliberately going into the blackness, and slowly drawing  
himself after,  
Overcame me now his back was turned.

I looked round, I put down my pitcher,  
I picked up a clumsy log  
And threw it at the water-trough with a clatter.

I think it did not hit him,  
But suddenly that part of him that was left behind  
convulsed in an undignified haste,  
Writhed like lightning, and was gone  
Into the black hole, the earth-lipped fissure in the wall-  
front,  
At which, in the intense still noon, I stared with  
fascination.

And immediately I regretted it.  
I thought how paltry, how vulgar, what a mean act!  
I despised myself and the voices of my accursed human  
education.

And I thought of the albatross,  
And I wished he would come back, my snake.

For he seemed to me again like a king,  
Like a king in exile, uncrowned in the underworld,  
Now due to be crowned again.

And so, I missed my chance with one of the lords  
Of life.  
And I have something to expiate:  
A pettiness.

Water trough – a man-made watering unit; flicker – quick movements; Mused – being thoughtful; bowels – deepest inner parts; Etna – A Greek volcano mountain; Pacify – bring peace to; Dreadful - fear; Pitcher – a large jug; Clatter – a continuous rattling sound; Convulsed – throw into violence; Haste – hurry; Writhed – make twisting movements; Paltry – very small; Accursed – under a curse; Albatross – an oceanic bird; Expiate – make up for a guilt or wrongdoing

3. On the one hand, the noun “nature” is highly critiqued like the term “environment” in contrast to “ecology”. Argue why “ecology” is preferred to “nature” and “environment” while representing natural entities in literary and cultural texts. On the other hand, ecocritical studies repeatedly employ the terms—nature and culture—to understand the ways in which humans relate to their land and specific organisms living on it. With specific reference to the ecodocumentaries—*The Queen of Trees* and *Timbaktu*—explain how combinations of nature and culture are ecological perspectives/ideologies/worldviews that define the ways in which humans interact with land, materials and organisms. (Marks: 10; 300 words)

## Section - II

### Zero Question

(Answer in about 200 words - 3 pages) (Marks: 25)

Instructions for answering zero question.

1. Prepare a question on any topic discussed in class which will lead you to a descriptive but argumentative answer. The thesis statement should be sound and clear.
2. The question should be specific.
3. Your question will be evaluated.
4. Answer the question to the point.
5. Your answer should analyze a problem and discuss it thoroughly.
6. Strictly follow the keyhole essay structure discussed in class.