<u>**PhD Entrance exam: Literature**</u>

Maximum marks: 100

Time: 2 hours

Answer any two of the following questions. Each question carries 50 marks.

1.   Casting a critical glance at any ONE emerging or established field within Indian literary studies, discuss the relation between historical experience and literary representation: Partition literature, Dalit literature, Fourth World literature (dealing with tribality, as in Mahasweta Devi), the question of nativism (such as in the work of Devy, Nemade etc), feminist autobiography.

2.   Write a conspectus of debates on the question of realism in Indian literature, beginning with the work of Meenakshi Mukherjee.

3.   Discuss what might be specific to literary study in terms of its premises and methods, and what it might share with other disciplinary fields (eg. History, Sociology, Philosophy or Psychology).

4.   How do ambient, cross-cultural idioms inform cultural transfers between regions? For instance, the early Mughal state modeled itself on the power and prestige of the Persianate as such, not just the Persian court. In a similar vein, Jan Assmann points to peculiar ways in which the ambient idioms of early antiquity such as the Mesopotamian and the Egyptian made way for the idea of a 'West' centered on the relation or non-relation between the Hellenic and the Judaic. This gave rise to the proliferation of exegetical cultures in the first millennium CE. More recently, the interplay between Islamicate and progressive American idioms in cultural production in the last three decades has served to considerably undercut the so-called divide between 'the West' and 'Islam' in contemporary discourse. Using these or other examples of cultural transfer, attempt to derive a model of literary genericity that takes into account the movement of idiom and the porousness of cultural space. You could take your examples from films, novels or short stories worldwide.

5.   What do you think are the most urgent and significant questions confronting the public University in India today?