

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI**

Minor Examination February 2022

Course: HUL340B “Language and Culture”

Instructor: Dr. Manju E. P.

SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME: 15TH FEB, 10 AM.

Max marks: 40

Instructions

- Answer any **FOUR** in **NOT LESS THAN 400** words.
- You can submit your answers preferably in a pdf file. However, those who cannot type in a word doc, can write your answers in an A4 paper, scan it and submit as a pdf file (No image submissions). Please number the pages correctly.
- Add your name, ID number and question numbers.
- All questions carry equal marks (**4 x 10**).
- Plagiarism is strictly prohibited.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Deeper understanding of the texts and critical reflections are expected than just text summaries.

Questions

1. “Fictions can be both enabling and disabling for humanity.” Critically evaluate this statement in the context of Toni Morrison’s Nobel Prize lecture and Yuval Noah Harari’s “The Storytellers.”
2. Does language perform resistance? Illustrate your arguments by discussing bell hooks’ “Teaching New Worlds/New Words” and Meena Kandasamy’s “Mulligatawny Dreams.”
3. Do you think that the ‘spectre’ in the short story “Spectral Speech” and the ‘mentally disturbed’ narrator in “The Yellow Wallpaper” are similar in articulating certain unpleasant truths? Justify your answer by comparing both the texts.
4. “For some, writing is an act of liberation.” Analyse this statement with reference to Douglass’s “Learning to Read and Write” and Adichie’s “The Thing Around Your Neck.”
5. Macaulay believed that “of all foreign tongues, the English tongue is that which would be the most useful to our native subjects.” Do you agree with the propositions of Macaulay’s Minute? Demonstrate your argument by critically analysing the text from a contemporary perspective highlighting the politics of language and power.