

## Ph. D. Preliminary Qualifying Examination

### Syllabus: Paper 1 - Research Methodology (English)

#### Areas and Topics

1. Research: definition and concepts- difference between criticism and research- thesis and dissertation- different steps in research.
2. Research Procedure: selection of topic  
Types of source materials- collection of materials- methods of preparing notes- card systems and file system- determining the type of data to be collected- collection, analysis and processing of the data to be collected- outline of thesis.
3. Structure of the thesis:  
Survey of literature- preparation of time schedule- three parts of thesis – reference material- chapter division-documentation-footnoting-quotations- style of thesis writing- bibliography- - appendix- table- observations- preparation of type script and lay-out of thesis.
4. Different strategies in humanities and Cultural Studies research  
Source materials for cultural studies research, Textual analysis, Discourse analysis, Narrative analysis, Historical analysis

#### Texts

1. Gabrielle Griffin, “Discourse Analysis,” *Research Methods for English Studies*, Gabrielle Griffin (Ed), Edinburgh, 2005.
2. Catherine Belsey, “Textual Analysis as a Research Method,” *Research Methods for English Studies*, Gabrielle Griffin (Ed), Edinburgh, 2005.
3. Micheal Pickering (Ed), *Research Methods for Cultural Studies*, Edinburgh, 2008.
4. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, (7th Edition), Modern Language Association, 2009.

**MODEL QUESTION PAPER**  
**Ph. D. Preliminary Qualifying Examination**  
**Paper I – Research Methodology**

**Time: Three Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 70**

I. Write essays on any three of the following choosing at least one question from each section:

Section A

1. Write an essay on the basic skills required for a scholar to conduct meaningful research in the Humanities today.
2. Discuss the mechanics of writing that a research scholar needs to master in order to communicate effectively in his dissertation.
3. “Writing a research paper is very different from writing a dissertation, even though they require the same basic skills.” Discuss.

**(15 marks)**

Section B

4. Stephen Lawler argues that narratives are social and cultural productions through which people try to make sense of their everyday lives. Discuss the implications of his view for research in literary studies.
5. Why is the mutually constitutive relationship between history and culture a crucial concept in cultural studies today?
6. “There is no such thing as ‘pure’ reading: interpretation always involves extra-textual knowledge.” Discuss this statement in the light of Catherine Belsey’s interpretation of Titian’s painting ‘Tarquin and Lucretia’.

**(15 marks)**

Section C

7. Discuss the major approaches in Cultural Studies for researching and documenting cultural production.
8. Discuss the possibilities of visual media research as a form of ethnographic research.
9. What are the methodological and theoretical issues in employing memory as a source in humanities research?

**(15 marks)**

II. Write short notes on any three of the following:

- a. Plagiarism in research
- b. Writing drafts
- c. Format for the bibliography
- d. Note-making as a part of research
- e. Validity of sources
- f. Citing non-print sources

**(3 X 5 = 15 marks)**

III. Answer the following in two or three sentences each:

- a. How do you cite an article on a website? Give an example.
- b. How is a working bibliography useful?
- c. How do you cite two or three books by the same author?
- d. Give an example of a text whose title is not underlined or italicized in the bibliography, and explain the reason.
- e. How will you cite the following book details in a bibliography:  
Book - Mythologies  
Author - Roland Barthes  
Selected and translated from the French by Annette Lavers  
Published by the Noonday Press, New York in 1991  
First published in French in 1957 by Editions du Seuil, Paris  
First published in English in 1972 by Jonathan Cape Ltd.

**(5 X 2 = 10 marks)**