**SESSION SPRING 2024 PROGRAM MASTER OF ARTS**

**SEMESTER I**

**COURSE CODE & NAME MAEC104 LITERARY THEORY AND CRITICISM**

**Assignment Set – 1**

**Questions**

**1. Elaborate briefly on the concept of hamartia mentioned by Aristotle in his Poetics.**

**Ans:** In Aristotle's "Poetics," the term "hamartia" refers to a character's tragic flaw or error in judgment that leads to their downfall. It is a key element in the structure of a tragedy, serving as the protagonist's significant moral or intellectual failing that precipitates their misfortune. Aristotle suggests that this flaw is not necessarily a character defect, but rather a mistake or miscalculation. The concept underscores the idea that the protagonist's downfall is often a result of their inherent qualities and choices, making their fate both inevitable and poignant. This evokes pity and fear in the audience, which are essential emotions in the experience of

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**2. Write a concise remark on the concept of figures of thoughts opined by Longinus in the Treatise on the Sublime.**

**Ans:** In "On the Sublime," Longinus discusses "figures of thought" as rhetorical strategies that enhance the emotional impact and persuasive power of a text. These figures involve the arrangement and expression of ideas in ways that elevate the style and evoke a profound response from the audience.

By using figures of thought, a writer or speaker can convey passion, urgency, and grandeur, contributing to the overall sublimity of their work. Longinus emphasizes that these figures,

**3. Write a brief remark on Wordworth’s definition of poetry.**

**Ans:** William Wordsworth defined poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquillity." This definition emphasizes poetry's deep connection to emotion and personal experience. Wordsworth believed that poetry should capture genuine human emotions and that reflecting on these emotions in a calm state allows the poet to express them more profoundly and authentically. His definition

**Assignment Set – 2nd**

**Questions**

**4. What did Matthew Arnold mean when he said that poetry is a criticism of life? Elaborate briefly.**

**Ans:** When Matthew Arnold stated that poetry is a "criticism of life," he meant that poetry should provide insightful reflections on the human condition and society. According to Arnold, poetry goes beyond mere aesthetic pleasure; it should engage with moral and philosophical issues, offering wisdom and understanding about life and its complexities. Through this lens, poetry acts as a means of evaluating and interpreting life, guiding readers toward deeper truths and ethical considerations. Arnold believed that great poetry helps individuals navigate their experiences and challenges by shedding light on the essential

**5. Analyze briefly the core motifs of the treatise called ‘Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question’ by Thomas Carlyle.**

**Ans:**Thomas Carlyle's "Occasional Discourse on the Negro Question," published in 1849, presents several core motifs centered around his controversial views on race, labour, and society.

**Key motifs include:**

**Racial Superiority and Inferiority:** Carlyle argues from a position of racial superiority, asserting that Black people are inherently inferior and suited only for labour under the control

**6. What are the ideas propounded by T. S. Eliot about the Dynamic Relationship between Past and Present Writers?**

**Ans:T. S. Eliot, in his essay "Tradition and the Individual Talent," elaborates on the dynamic relationship between past and present writers through several key ideas:**

**Tradition and Continuity:** Eliot argues that tradition is not a passive inheritance but a dynamic process where the past and present constantly interact. He believes that a good poet must understand and appreciate the literary tradition to contribute meaningfully to it.

**Historical Sense:** Eliot introduces the concept of the "historical sense," which involves a