

2024

ENGLISH

(Honours Core)

Paper : ENG-HC-5026

(Women's Writing)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. Answer the following as directed : 1×10=10

- Which 'andolan' is referred to in the story, *Celebration* ?
- Who does the speaker address as "my fierce half-brother"?

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(2)

(c) What did Mr. and Mrs. Norman Knight call each other at home?

(d) Who translated *Draupadi* into English from the original Bengali text?

(e) 'my skin/Bright as a ____ lampshade'.
(Fill in the blank)

(f) What, according to the speaker, is perpetual in the 'green eyes of cats'?

(g) What, in the speaker's opinion, is the distinguishing facial feature of her 'daddy'?

(h) What is the act of charity the speaker in *Bequest* wishes to perform?

(i) What is the name of Celie's father?

(j) In which year was Rassundari Devi's autobiography first published?

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(Continued)

(3)

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

(a) Why, according to Wollstonecraft, were passions 'implanted' in human beings?

(b) Write, in brief, about the use of sarcasm in the poem, *Bequest*.

(c) Why does the speaker advise women to keep cats?

(d) Who is Mr. Senanayak in the story, *Draupadi* ?

(e) What idea do you get about the relationship between Kuhlila Bai and her husband from the story, *Celebration*?

3. Answer any four of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) "Rassundari Devi's early life, as depicted in *Amar Jiban*, appears to have been ruled by fear and apprehension." Do you agree? Justify your answer.

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(4)

- (b) What, in your opinion, are the ways in which Bertha Young's childlike, playful nature gets subdued by "idiotic civilization"? Write your answer with reference to the story, *Bliss*.
- (c) How does Adrienne Rich's poem, *Orion*, draw out the insensitiveness of nature towards mutable human life? Does Orion, the star, help the poet in doing so?
- (d) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of the poem, *Lady Lazarus*.
- (e) In what ways does *The Color Purple* explore the double marginalization, in terms of gender and race, of African-American women? Write with reference to Celie's predicament.
- (f) "Draupadi Meihen's plight at the end of the story can be ascribed to the fact that she is not only a rebel, but a female rebel". Do you agree? Justify your answer.

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(5)

- (g) Discuss the reasons why Mary Wollstonecraft critiques Rousseau in Chapter 1 of, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

- (h) Write a note on Eunice de Souza's use of satire in exploring the man-woman relationship, with reference to the prescribed poems.

4. Answer the following questions : 10×4=40

- (a) "The twist at the end of the story, *Bliss*, brings out the irony underlying the entire narrative." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

Or

- (b) "The story, *Celebration*, celebrates an ordinary woman's resilience and perseverance in the face of dire circumstances." In your opinion, how does 'uhila Bai's character contribute to this?

(6)

- (c) Attempt a critical appreciation of Adrienne Rich's *Orion*.

Or

- (d) Critically comment on the use of imagery and metaphor in Sylvia Plath's poetry, with special reference to the prescribed poems.

- (e) Critically analyse the place of letters in the narrative techniques of *The Color Purple*.

Or

- (f) Write a note on how Rassundari Devi overcome her fear and challenged societal norms in order to educate herself.

- (g) Discuss how an act of political resistance transforms into Draupadi's individual act of resistance against patriarchal oppression in the story, *Draupadi*. What is Senanayak's role in this transformation?

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(7)

Or

- (h) *Women's Writing* helps us understand that despite geographical and cultural differences, there is a common thread of intolerance towards the exploitation and oppression of women that binds women writers across the globe." Elucidate this statement with reference to the texts prescribed in your syllabus.
