

3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG HC 2

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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

(a) Which 'andolan' is referred to in the story, *Celebration* ?

(b) Who does the speaker address as "my fierce half-brother"?

(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?

(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 Kuhila 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.

(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.

(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 Kuhila 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?

(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.
