

**3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG RG**

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**ENGLISH**

**( Regular Generic )**

**Paper : ENG-RG-5016**

**( Contemporary India : Women and Empowerment )**

*Full Marks : 80*

*Time : 3 hours*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks  
for the questions*

**1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10**

**(a) Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar led the  
campaign to legalise widow remarriage.**

**( Write True or False )**

**(b) What is the full form of POSH in the  
POSH Act?**

**(c) Who is the central character in  
Mahashweta Devi's *Mother of 1084*?**

**(d) Which wave of feminism deals primarily  
with the issue of suffrage?**

**(e) \_\_\_\_\_ is the founder of the Arya Samaj.**

**( Fill in the blank )**

- (f) Which Act of 1856 attempted to secure the financial position of widows?
- (g) What is a Khap Panchayat?
- (h) Kamala Das's *The Old Playhouse* is a novel on Indian life during the time of British imperialism.

( Write True or False )

- (i) What was the work by Mary Wollstonecraft which raised voice in favour of women's rights?
- (j) Which Article of the Indian Constitution ensures that at least one-third of the total seats in Panchayats and Municipalities are reserved for women?

2. Answer the following questions :  $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) What is the difference between sex and gender?
- (b) Who was the first women legislator of India? When and where was she appointed?
- (c) What do you think is the chief reason for overwhelming participation of women in the Gandhian form of national struggle?
- (d) What is the POCSO Act and when was it passed?
- (e) What is the difference between female foeticide and female infanticide?

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

$5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) What is the significance of the title, *The Old Playhouse* by Kamala Das?
- (b) What were the contributions made by Pandita Ramabai towards women's education and women's rights?
- (c) Write a short note on the Shah Bano case of 1985.
- (d) What is the role of family in the social construction of gender?
- (e) When and where did the All India Women's Conference first take place? What was its contribution towards promoting women's rights?
- (f) Illustrate the role of Medha Patkar in the Narmoda Bachao Andolan.

4. Answer any four of the following questions :

$10 \times 4 = 40$

- (a) Trace a few ideas and writings that inspired and provided the foundation for the women's movement in modern times.
- (b) How does Krishna Sobti's *Zindaginama* bring to life Punjab during the British era?

- (c) What is the Sati (Prevention) Act of 1987? What are its provisions? Describe the circumstances which led to the passing of this Act.
- (d) Throw light on the nature of women's participation in the National Movement of India.
- (e) Mahashweta Devi's *Mother of 1084* is a story of loss and remorse. Substantiate through a character appraisal of the central character.
- (f) Evaluate the origin and achievements of the nineteenth century socio-religious reform movement within colonial India.
- (g) What is the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955? What is its main purpose? Mention the provisions of the Act.
- (h) What was the Chipko Movement? What was its outcome? What role did women play in it?

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