

2021

(Held in 2022)

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HC-5026

(Women's Writing)

(Honours Core)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following/Fill in the blanks :

1×10=10

- (a) When was *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* published?
- (b) Who is Bertha's husband in the story, *Bliss*?
- (c) Is Senanayak the oppressor of Draupadi? Answer yes or no.
- (d) Whom does Adrienne Rich address as 'my fierce half brother'?
- (e) "A man in black with a _____ look."

(2)

- (f) What is there in every Catholic home according to the poem, *Bequest*?
- (g) What does 'the otherness of lovers' mean in the poem, *Advice to Women*?
- (h) According to Wollstonecraft, "the perfection of our nature and capability of happiness must be estimated" by what?
- (i) How did Kuhila Bai's son die in the story, *Celebration*?
- (j) "And I a _____ woman."

2. Answer any *five* of the following questions :

2×5=10

- ✓(a) Why does Rassundari Devi compare herself to a fish caught in the net?
- ✓(b) Why does Kuhila Bai feel closest to the second Bengali housewife? How is she different from Kuhila Bai?
- ✓(c) What is Plath's ambivalent relationship with her father?
- ✓(d) Why does the speaker smile 'endlessly and vacuously' in the poem, *Bequest*?

- (e) What bothers Celie about her father's second wife?
- ✓ (f) How did Dopdi and Dulna escape during the 'Operation Bakuli'?
- (g) How does Adrienne Rich change her view regarding Orion over the course of time?

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

5×4=20

- ✓ (a) What role did religion play in the life of Rassundari Devi?
- ✓ (b) Critically comment on the following lines :
- That stare of perpetual surprise
in those great green eyes
will teach you
to die alone.
- (c) How, according to Wollstonecraft, did the writings in circulation contribute to the myth of male supremacy and female weakness?
- ✓ (d) How does Plath's 'Electra' complex come through in the poem, *Daddy*?

- (e) Narrate, in your own words, Celie's response after the discovery of all the letters sent by her sister.
- (f) Critically comment on the character of Kuhila Bai in the story, *Celebration*.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) "Gender is a social construct." Explain with reference to *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.
- (b) "In *Draupadi*, Mahasweta Devi uses many different voices, yet the subaltern thrust of the narrative stands out." Discuss.
- ✓ (c) Comment critically on the title of *The Colour Purple*.
- ✓ (d) Why does Plath use holocaust imagery? Do they underplay Lady Lazarus's pain?
- ✓ (e) "Rassundari Devi's transgressive desires are at the centre of her life narration." Discuss.
- ✓ (f) Comment on the narrative technique that Katherine Mansfield uses in the story, *Bliss*.
