

2022

ENGLISH
(Honours)

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 any ten of the following as directed :
1×10=10

- (a) What is the name of Draupadi's husband?
- (b) In *Bliss*, what event is Bertha preparing for?
- (c) What does Adrienne Rich say by looking up at the Orion?
- (d) "A man in black with a _____ look."
(Fill in the blank)
- (e) After the death of her husband, what profession did Kukila Bai take up?

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(Turn Over)

(2)

(f) How old is the speaker in the poem, *Lady Lazarus*?

(g) Who is Shug Avery?

(h) Whose writings was Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* a response to?

(i) William Godwin

(ii) Thomas Paine

(iii) Edmund Burke

(iv) John Locke

(Choose the correct option)

(i) Who is the young woman in the party whom Bertha finds in a romantic embrace with her husband?

(j) Why is the picture of Christ referred to in the poem, *Bequest*?

(k) In *Bliss*, whom does Bertha have a crush on?

(l) In which anthology was Plath's *Daddy* published?

(m) What, according to de Souza, is there in every Catholic household?

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(Continued)

(3)

(n) Which is the first autobiography written in Bengali by a woman?

(o) In the poem, *Lady Lazarus*, the speaker compares her dying to

(i) an explosion

(ii) genocide

(iii) a sleep

(iv) performance art

(Choose the correct option)

(p) What language does the titular Daddy speak in the poem, *Daddy*?

(q) Why did Alphonso never reveal that Celie and Nettie were not his biological children?

(r) What is Squeak's real name in the novel, *The Color Purple*?

2. Answer any five of the following questions :
2×5=10

(a) What, according to Rousseau, are the roles of women 'at all times'?

(b) What kind of relation did Plath have with her father?

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(4)

- (c) Why does the speaker smile endlessly and vacuously in *Bequest*?
- (d) What did Celie write to God initially when she wrote letters to Him?
- (e) How did Rassundari Devi learn to read?
- (f) What does Bertha realize at the end of the story, *Bliss*?
- (g) What is the speaker's issue with the Orion?
- (h) What is Operation Bakuli?
- (i) Why does de Souza advise women to keep cats? What do 'cats' symbolize?
- (j) How does Adrienne Rich use the theme of permanency versus transiency in the poem, *Orion*?

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

- (a) Why does Wollstonecraft think that education is central to the rights of woman?

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(5)

- (b) Critically comment on the character of Bertha.
- (c) How does Rassundari Devi present her indomitable urge to enter into the world of words in her autobiography?
- (d) Give a character sketch of Dopdi Mejhen.
- (e) How does Alice Walker portray the disruption of traditional gender roles in *The Color Purple*?
- (f) Critically analyze the feminine sensibilities as reflected in Borgohain's *Celebration*.
- (g) Identify and critically comment on the following lines :
"Otherness is not always neglect—
Cats return to their litter trays
When they need to."
(h) "Bertha feels that the pear tree is a symbol of her own life." Highlighting on the statement, critically analyze the symbolism of the pear tree in *Bliss*.

(6)

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions :
10×4=40

- (a) Discuss *Draupadi* as a narrative of resistance.
- (b) How does Rassundari Devi portray the lived realities of women of the 19th century Bengal in her autobiography?
- (c) What, according to Wollstonecraft, are some of the major reasons for women's subjugated status? How does she critique Rousseau for his views on women?
- (d) Discuss the ironic implications of the title of the short story, *Bliss*.
- (e) How does Walker make use of the theme of injustice in her novel, *The Color Purple*?
- (f) Discuss Plath's *Daddy* as a confessional poem.
- (g) "Celie's rape in *The Color Purple* is not an instrument of her silencing, but a catalyst in her search for a voice." Discuss.

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(7)

- (h) Discuss the major issues taken up by Mahasweta Devi in *Draupadi*.
- (i) What is the main conflict in *Bliss*? How does Mansfield present the conflict as a projection of the societal norms that can affect one's happiness?
- (j) "A *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* addresses both other women and 'intellectuals' like Rousseau, who endorse double standards." Discuss.

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3 (Sem-5/CBCS) ENG-HC 2