

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

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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?

(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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(Turn Over)

(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?

(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*.

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.

- (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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