

2 0 2 3

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) Whom does the speaker address as "my genius, you my cast-iron Viking"?

(b) Who is Celie's husband in *The Color Purple*?

(c) "O You—Not God but a _____."

(Fill in the blank)

(d) What will the 'great green eyes' of cats teach women?

(e) Who is Bertha's husband in the story, *Bliss*?

- (f) Who is Surja Sahu?
- (g) To what does the speaker compare her skin in the poem, *Lady Lazarus*?
- (h) According to Mary Wollstonecraft, what do most men use reason for?
- (i) When was the first part of Rassundari Devi's *Aamar Jiban* published?
- (j) What was the name of Harpo's wife in *The Color Purple*?

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) Why does Celie address her letters to God in *The Color Purple*?
- (b) What is the significance of Reason and Education in Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*?
- (c) How does the speaker in Plath's *Daddy* convey her conflicting emotions towards her father?
- (d) What does Orion symbolize in Adrienne Rich's poem?
- (e) After the death of her husband, how did Kuhila Bai manage to survive with her son?

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

5×4=20

- (a) How does the speaker view life and death in the poem, *Lady Lazarus*?
- (b) How does Adrienne Rich explore the themes of identity and relationship in the poem, *Orion*?
- (c) Why do prayers have an important effect in the early life of Rassundari Devi?
- (d) Critically evaluate Kuhila Bai's role in the story, *Celebration*.
- (e) What is the significance of Nettie's letters in the novel, *The Color Purple*?
- (f) Why does the speaker bequeath her heart in the poem, *Bequest*?
- (g) What is the significance of the following lines in Mahasweta Devi's *Draupadi*?
"the object of your search, Dopdi Mehjen. You asked them to make me. Don't you want to see how they made me?"
How does Dopdi assert her resistance?
- (h) Comment on the otherness of women in Eunice de Souza's poem, *Advice to Women*.

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

10×4=40

- (a) Would you consider Sylvia Plath's *Daddy* to be an expression against the voice of patriarchy? Comment critically.
- (b) Examine the themes of sisterhood and empowerment in *The Color Purple*.
- (c) "Bliss is underpinned by dramatic irony." Analyze the story, *Bliss* in the light of the statement given. How does the title create a paradox in the story?
- (d) How does Sylvia Plath's use of the Holocaust as a metaphor in *Daddy* and *Lady Lazarus* relate to her exploration of self-identity?
- (e) Discuss Mahasweta Devi's short story, *Draupadi* as a portrayal of subaltern resistance.
- (f) How does *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft challenge conventional gender norms? Answer with reference to the chapters prescribed.
- (g) What is the theme of the poem, *Bequest* by Eunice de Souza?
- (h) Critically comment on the character of Bertha.

★ ★ ★