

2022

(Held in 2023)

ENGLISH

Paper : ENGHC5116

(Women's Writing)

Full Marks : 80

Pass Marks : 32

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer the following questions : 1×6=6

(a) Why does Eunice de Souza advise women to keep cats?

(b) When was *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* published?

(c) Who is the 'Senanayak' in the story, *Draupadi*?

(d) How does Celie's mother die?

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

(f) Where was Rassundari Devi born?

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

- (a) Why does Rassundari Devi compare herself to a fish caught in the net?
- (b) What is Plath's ambivalent relationship with her father?
- (c) Why does the speaker smile 'endlessly and vacuously' in the poem, *Bequest*?
- (d) What does the pear tree symbolize in Katherine Mansfield's *Bliss*?
- (e) What does Dopdi's refusal to be clothed signify?

3. Answer any six of the following questions :

$5 \times 6 = 30$

- (a) How, according to Wollstonecraft, did the writings in circulation contribute to the myth of male supremacy and female weakness?
- (b) How does Plath's 'Electra' complex come through the poem, *Daddy*?
- (c) How does the pattern of the wallpaper in *The Yellow Wallpaper* appear as a metaphor for the narrator's own mind?

- (d) "Dying
Is an art, like everything else.
I do it exceptionally well."
Explain with reference to the context.
- (e) Critically comment on the character of Celie.
- (f) What is the paradox created by the title and the theme of Katherine Mansfield's story, *Bliss*?
- (g) "Through the dislocation of the epic princess Draupadi to the tribal rebel Dopdi, Mahasweta Devi is able to present voices and perspectives otherwise unspoken and unheard of." Give reasons.
- (h) What role did religion play in the life of Rassundari Devi?
- (i) What do 'oceans' and 'prayer' mean in the poem, *I Cannot Live With You*?

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

10×2=20

- (a) "Gender is a social construct." Explain with reference to *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.

(b) How Ramabai's *A Testimony of Our Inexhaustible Treasure* 'expanded the horizons' of emergence of Feminism in India?

(c) "Sylvia Plath's poetry dramatizes a process of psychic purgation." Comment.

5. Answer any one of the following questions : 14

(a) Consider *The Color Purple* as an epistolary novel.

(b) Discuss Mahasweta Devi's *Draupadi* as a symbol of subaltern defiance.
