

B.A. (Hons.) / III

B

ENGLISH – Paper IX (c)

(Women's Writing in the 19th and 20th Centuries)

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

NOTE:— The maximum marks printed on the question paper are applicable for the candidates registered with the School of Open Learning. These marks will, however, be scaled down proportionately in respect of the students of regular colleges, at the time of posting of awards for compilation of result.

Attempt all four questions. Question No. 1 has three parts and Question No. 2 has two parts. Each of these parts must be answered.

1. (a) 'And Celie, there is something magical about it. Because the black is so black the eye is simply dazzled, and then there is the shining that seems to come, really, from the moonlight, it is so luminous, but their skin glows even in the sun.'

How does Walker rewrite the identity and history of Africans and African-Americans through Nettie's trip to Africa?

Or

'Now us sit sewing and talking and smoking our pipes.

Analyse the change in the relationship between Albert and Celie at the end of Walker's *The Color Purple*. What are the factors that contribute to this change?

- (b) Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

With Blue -- uncertain stumbling Buzz --
Between the light -- and me --
And then the Windows failed -- and then
I could not see to see --

- (i) Examine the metaphorical implications of the fly, set against the opposing metaphors of 'the light' and 'the Windows'. (7)
- (ii) How does the poem employ the visual and sensory imagery of a typical deathbed scene? (8)

Or

Discuss the significance of the Biblical name 'Lazarus' in Sylvia Plath's 'Lady Lazarus'.

- (c) 'Widowhood, ill-health, or want of bread, these three explanations or excuses are supposed to justify a woman in taking up an occupation.'

Critically analyse Florence Nightingale's representation of the privileged upper class Victorian woman's lack of freedom in *Cassandra*.

Or

Write a note on Jacob's dismantling of slavery through her questioning of any two of the many laws that instituted it.

(15 x3=45)

2. (a) Explain Cora Kaplan's argument in 'Women and Language' that "men and women in patriarchal societies have different relationships to the language they speak and write".

Or

Evaluate Simone de Beauvoir's contention that Woman is a constructed 'Other' of a universal self that is always invested with male norms. (8)

- (b) Comment on the mental and physical violence perpetrated on women with reference to any two texts in the course.

Or

Write a note on the use of same sex love as a feminist tool in women's writing. (7)

3. (a) Describe the resolution that Anna Wulf reaches in the final golden notebook in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*.

Or

(b) What are the contradictions that mark Anna Wulf's emotional states in yellow notebook in Doris Lessing's *The Golden Notebook*?

(20)

4. (a) Katherine Mansfield's 'Bliss' can be read as an account of the lack of cultural space for bisexuality. Do you agree? Give a reasoned answer based on evidence from the text.

Or

(b) How does Charlotte Perkins Gilman re-signify the idea of madness 'The Yellow Wallpaper'? (20)

(20)