

This question paper contains 4 printed pages]

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S. No. of Question Paper : 1294

Unique Paper Code : 203506

D

Name of the Paper : Women's Writing in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Name of the Course : B.A. (Hons.) English

Semester : V

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

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

Attempt *All* questions.

1. (a) Analyse Plath's representation of death and resurrection suggested by the title of the poem 'Lady Lazarus'. 10

*Or*

- (b) Read the following lines and answer the questions below :

The Soul selects her own Society--

Then--shuts the Door--

To her divine Majority--

Present no more--

.....  
I've known her--from an ample nation--

P.T.O.

Choose one --

Then--close the Valves of her attention--

Like Stone--

- (i) What does the speaker mean by the term 'Society' in the first line and what is the significance of the shutting of the door subsequent to that selection? 4
- (ii) In the last stanza, the soul chooses 'One' from an 'ample nation', yet the poet has already referred to her choice as a 'divine Majority'. Analyse this apparent contradiction. 6

2. (a) 'There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself'. Critically analyse Kate Chopin's portrayal of widowhood as cause for celebration rather than sorrow in 'The Story of an Hour'.

Or

- (b) 'Personally, I disagree with their ideas. Personally, I believe that congenial work, with excitement and change, would do me good.' Critically analyse the woman's disagreement with the male doctors' diagnosis of her illness and its treatment in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 'The Yellow Wallpaper'. 10

3. Answer any *two* of the following :

- (a) 'Because of our social circumstances, male and female are really *two* cultures and their life experiences and writings are utterly different.' Discuss with reference to any text from this paper. 5

- (b) As a woman poet in the nineteenth century, how does Elizabeth Barrett-Browning redefine the male-dominated poetic tradition ? 5
- (c) Write a note on the different ways in which women's bodies are imprisoned with reference to the texts in the course. 5
4. (a) Discuss Barrett-Browning's *Aurora Leigh* as a 'modern' epic. Why does the poet choose this traditional genre of poetry while also redefining its subject matter ?

Or

- (b) Discuss Marge Piercy's feminist ideas regarding rape and abortion, focusing on 'Missoula Rape Poem' and 'Right to Life'. 15
5. (a) 'Why be given a body if you have to keep it shut up in a case like a rare, rare fiddle ?' Critically analyse Mansfield's depiction of the female body and physical desires in 'Bliss'.

Or

- (b) Analyse Mahashweta Devi's use of rape at the end of 'Draupadi' to foreground the cowardice of the male state power. 15
6. (a) (i) What are the conditions that Cora Kaplan feels will enable women to break down the taboos that bar women from public speech ? 8
- (ii) How does Freud establish the centrality of the pre-Oedipus phase in his essay, 'Female Sexuality' ? 7

Or

- (b) (i) Write a note on the fictitious character of 'Shakespeare's Sister' in Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, drawing attention to Woolf's use of the character to illustrate one of her central arguments regarding the position of women in society. 8
- (ii) Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar write about the problems of 'being a woman writer in a culture whose fundamental definitions of literary authority are both overtly and covertly patriarchal'. Comment. 7