

MASTER'S DEGREE (C.S.S) EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2024
2023 ADMISSIONS REGULAR
SEMESTER III - CORE COURSE ENGLISH
EN3C14TM21 - Literature and Gender

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Weight : 30

Part A

I. Answer any Eight questions. Each question carries 1 weight **(8x1=8)**

1. State reasons why Patricia Hill Collins regards the African-American woman not as a defenceless victim but as a strong-willed resister.
2. Explain the meaning of Germaine Greer's expression "the phenomenon of the transience of female literary fame" with reference to Showalter's essay.
3. Examine the predominant concerns of Kamala Das in her poem "An Introduction".
4. Analyse the form of the poem "Ode to Aphrodite".
5. Examine how Sylvia Plath's feminist agenda is summed up in the fig tree analogy.
6. *The Bell Jar* is Esther Greenwood's quest to control her destiny. Discuss.
7. Discuss white beauty as a symbol of dominance in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
8. Discuss the third wave of feminism with reference to Rebecca Walker's essay.
9. Evaluate "Sultana's Dream" as an allegory.
10. Analyse the setting of Ajeet Cour's story "Dead End".

Part B

II. Answer any Six questions. Each question carries 2 weight **(6x2=12)**

11. Analyse the reasons put forth by Showalter to justify that since the 1960s there has been "a special female self-awareness" emerging through literature.
12. Analyse the ideas of "self-reliance" and "independence" of African American women propounded by Patricia Hill Collins in her essay.
13. Evaluate "An Introduction" by Kamala Das a feminist poem.
14. Explain the implication of the title "On Being Brought from Africa to America".
15. *The Bell Jar* is an exploration of the divide between mind and body. Analyse.
16. Describe how Rebecca Walker establishes the need for a third wave of feminism in her seminal essay.
17. Discuss the politics of identity and name in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
18. Analyse Lalithambika Antharjanam's stories as social engagements countering patriarchy.

Part C

III. Answer any Two questions. Each question carries 5 weight **(2x5=10)**

19. Analyse how Atwood counters the vicious cycle of objectification of women in her poem "Helen of Troy does Countertop Dancing".
20. Honor is "located in the body of the woman". Discuss with reference to Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man*.
21. Discuss how A. Revathi's autobiography generates social change regarding the stigmatised view of hijras.
22. Illustrate the multiple instances of active dissent against patriarchy and male chauvinism expressed in "Sultana's Dream".