

First Semester M.A. Degree Examination
English Language and Literature (from 2022 admission onwards)
Model Question Paper

Paper XI – EL 533.5 – Elective Course: Women’s Writing

Time: 3 hours

Max marks: 75 .

Answer any five of the following questions in about 50 words

1. Who are the five women in the eponymous story by Mahasweta Devi?
2. Describe the character of Mr Singlebury.
3. Why was Kamala Das never able to ‘make up’ with her father?
4. What is the central idea of “Before I leave the Stage”?
5. Comment on the different meanings of *Thirst* in Vinodini’s play?
6. What is the internal conflict that Sylvia faces in “A White Heron”?
7. How is the idea of solidarity conveyed in “A Place for Me”?
8. What qualities does Sylvia Plath see in Balloons that brings her such delight?

(5x2 = 10m)

Answer any five of the following questions in about 100 words.

9. Describe the writer’s challenge in “Poem”.
10. Comment on the idea of regret in “Thachante Makal”.
11. How is the way that the Dalit woman’s body is perceived by members of the upper caste depicted in *Thirst*?
12. Why does Sylvia not reveal the heron’s location to Hunter?
13. Comment on the relationship between man and nature in “The Nectar of the Panguru Flower”.
14. How does Adichie speak about feminism and the idea of intersectionality?
15. How does Penelope Fitzgerald make use of the technique of shifting timelines to bring out the themes of *The Axe*?
16. Examine the symbolism of the final scene in “A Woman’s Farewell Song”.

(5x5 = 25m)

III. Answer any two of the following questions in about 300 words choosing one from each group.

Group A

17. Describe the ways in which the confessional mode becomes a powerful vehicle for women’s self-expression through literature.

18. How does *Top Girls* use its characters and narrative structure to reflect the impact of social class on women's opportunities, and the tension between individual aspirations and societal norms?

19. How is the 'recycling' or retelling of fairy tales and myths become a medium for women writers to explore questions of gender?

Group B

20. Discuss the intersectionality between caste and gender in Indian Women's Writing.

21. How does contemporary women's writing move beyond the restrictive and objectifying definitions imposed by traditional discourses and instead reflect the multiplicity of women's experiences?

22. Explore how women writers draw on personal or cultural connections to nature in their works. How does their relationship with nature influence their portrayal of characters, themes, or narratives?

(15x 2 = 30m)

IV. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

23. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and attempt a one page critical note on the passage

I have chosen to no longer be apologetic for my femininity. And I want to be respected in all my femaleness. Because I deserve to be. I like politics and history and am happiest when having a good argument about ideas. I am girly. I am happily girly. I like high heels and trying on lipsticks. It's nice to be complimented by both men and women (although I have to be honest and say that I prefer the compliments of stylish women), but I often wear clothes that men don't like or don't "understand." I wear them because I like them and because I feel good in them. The "male gaze," as a shaper of my life's choices, is largely incidental.

24. How does "Naked Girl and Mirror" contribute to the discourse on women's experiences, autonomy, and self-discovery?

25. Comment on the idea of female solidarity as reflected in contemporary women's writing.

(10x 1 = 10m)