

CODE: 19CE/AC/GD45

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2022
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE: ALLIED CORE
COURSE TITLE: LITERATURE AND GENDER

TIME: 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any two of the following in about 500 words each: (2x20=40 marks)

1. “One is not born, but rather becomes a woman.” Do you agree? Discuss with reference to *Small Remedies* and *Truth About Me*.
2. To what extent is Caryl Churchill’s play *Top Girls* a comment on how patriarchal values construct gender identities?
3. Examine how Adrienne Rich uses intertextuality in *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law* to create a uniquely feminist intellectual tradition.
4. In what ways do the texts prescribed for study defy gender constructs? Explain using examples from the two poems “Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping” and “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law”.

SECTION B

II. Answer any three of the following in about 400 words each: (3x15=45 marks)

5. Elaborate on the themes of ‘difference’ and diasporic identity as seen in the poem *The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping*.
6. Discuss the significance of characterisation in Caryl Churchill’s play *Top Girls*.
7. Examine the implicit hierarchy in the Guru-Chela system in *Truth About Me*.
8. Does Madhu finally come to terms with the trauma of losing her child? Analyse Madhu’s journey of motherhood with suitable examples from *Small Remedies*.
9. Briefly discuss the significance of the rites and rituals in the hijra community as seen through the eyes of Revathi in *Truth About Me*.

SECTION C

III. Critically analyse the given passage: (1x15= 15 marks)

If born a pottai, and when living amongst pottais, it is important that a person pierces her ears and nose, and grows her hair. If you merely wear press-button earrings and a wig, no one really respects you. Likewise, if you happen to see a man crossing your path, you’re expected to make way for him, bend your head bashfully and make sure that your chest is covered. It is also important to learn the ways of the hijras, follow rules, respect elders, make sure that a youngster’s dress does not so much as brush an elder’s arm or leg, and do all that an elder asks. This is what is expected of those who want to be part of the hijra community.