

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2023  
BRANCH XII - ENGLISH  
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE: ALLIED CORE  
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)

1. The women in the play reveal how maternal identity is impacted by dominant patriarchal ideologies. Validate the statement with reference to *Top Girls*.
2. Discuss feminist consciousness in Adrienne Rich's "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law."
3. "Men and even women stared at us and laughed, and heckled us. I realized what a burden a Hijra's daily life is." Comment on Revathi's never-ending quest for happiness.
4. How does Deshpande portray the ideals of liberal feminism, focusing on women's ability to achieve gender equity through their choices? Answer with reference to *Small Remedies*.

SECTION B

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

5. Comment on Deshpande's portrayal of Leela in *Small Remedies* as a widow who refuses to remain marginalised and invisible.
6. Bring out the dynamics between race and gender in "The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping".
7. How does the first Act in *Top Girls* represent different aspects of the female psyche while also revealing a universal female experience?
8. Explain Adrienne Rich's concept of 're-visioning' with reference to "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law".
9. Critically analyse how Grace Nichols' poem reflects a self-affirmation of women's identity in which the female body acts as a stimulant for female writing that favors breaking of stereotypes.

SECTION C

III. Critically analyse the following passage with reference to ideology, theme and technique. (15 marks)

10.

MRS KIDD. I think it is different, because he's a man.

MARLENE. I'm not quite sure why you came to see me.

MRS KIDD. I had to do something.

MARLENE. Well you've done it, you've seen me. I think that's probably all we've time for. I'm sorry he's been taking it out on you. He really is a shit, Howard.

MRS KIDD. But he's got a family to support. He's got three children. It's only fair.

MARLENE: Are you suggesting I give up the job to him then?

MRS KIDD: It had crossed my mind if you were unavailable for some reason, he would be the natural second choice I think, don't you? I'm not asking.

MARLENE: Good.

MRS KIDD: You mustn't tell him I came. He's very proud.

MARLENE: If he doesn't like what's happening here he can go and work somewhere else.

MRS KIDD: Is that a threat?

MARLENE: I'm sorry but I do have some work to do.

MRS KIDD: It's not easy, a man of Howard's age. You don't care. I thought he was going too far but he's right. You're one of those ball breakers, that's what you

MARLENE: I'm sorry but I do have some work to do.

MRS KIDD: are. You'll end up miserable and lonely. You're not natural.

MARLENE. Could you please piss off?

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