

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI – 86
(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2023 – 2024)

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023
BRANCH VII - ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : **POSTGRADUATE CORE**
PAPER : **GENDER STUDIES**
SUBJECT CODE : **23EL/PC/GS14**
TIME : **3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

Q. No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
I	Answer any one of the following in about 250 words. (1x10=10)		
1.	“In the late '50's I was able to write, for the first time, directly about experiencing myself as a woman.” Relate this statement to the “awakening” that Adrienne Rich theorises on.	1	K1
2.	How does Judith Butler establish that “gender reality is created through sustained social performances”?		
Q. No. II	SECTION B Answer any one of the following in about 250 words.(1x10=10)	CO	KL
3.	Illustrate gender performativity in relation to Mahasweta Devi’s “Draupadi”.	2	K2
4.	Is there a category of women who are “third world feminists”? Explain with reference to the prescribed text by Madhu Kishwar.		
Q. No. III	SECTION C Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)	CO	KL
5.	Briefly explain how David Guterman applies postmodern theories of subjectivity, identity and agency to an analysis of the ways that masculinity is constructed by cultural scripts of normativity.	3	K3
6.	How does bell hooks expose the “exclusionary practices” of western feminists?		
IV	Answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)		
7.	Interrogate the powerful female voice of Paanchali in the text prescribed.	4	K4
8.	Comment on the significance of Malinalli being cast as “slave girl” and “interpreter” in Laura Esquivel’s narrative.		

Q. No.	SECTION D	CO	KL
	<p>Read the following passage and answer questions V and VI.</p> <p>When I crossed over to the other side of 25, my eyes were opened to many myths I had about marriage and men. I had married at the age of 22. I was a rebel. I ran away from home with the man I loved. Left Bombay for Pune and married my husband against my parent's wishes. The first four years of marriage were not really unhappy. I was deeply engrossed in my own world trying to complete my studies, adapting to a new city, making friends, building a home. Also a great part of the time I was trying to earn. My husband was a student union activist. I never bothered about what he did from dawn to dusk except what he volunteered to tell me about his work, or his latest achievements. When it happened to be one of our birthdays, we had a feast: on our wedding anniversary we celebrated.</p> <p>In the year 1986, I became pregnant. This forced me to be away from home for three months. I went to my parents in Bombay, as was the custom. After the delivery I returned to our Pune house with our baby boy. Obviously, a little nervous with so many new responsibilities but a proud mother all the same. It was at this stage when the real trouble began. I heard some gossip about my husband having an affair with a woman who was working in the same union.</p> <p>Then there were letters and phone calls from women he knew but I had never met, never been introduced to or bothered to find out about. I grew angry, resentful and very suspicious. When I asked Krishna for explanations, I was told it was none of my business. So I nagged him about it. We argued. He shouted. Our baby boy fell ill very often, so my husband was forced to look after him. He was also compelled to bring home more money as I was unemployed.</p> <p>Soon the past began unfolding before my shocked eyes as I discovered all the relationships he had maintained with numerous girl friends.For years I had deceived myself into believing that some degree of equality between men and women was possible in the home if there was love, compatibility, and both had a progressive outlook. But my own experiences with a comrade who is also my husband, left me disillusioned.....</p> <p>My husband and other men who work alongside him in the union profess equality for men and women at the workplace, organize women to demand their rights at the factory gates and are ever willing to run to the union office to attend to women in distress. Yet none of these male activists show equality to women in their own homes. Their wives, mothers, sisters or daughters are treated with contempt.</p>		

	<p>Patriarchal domination still exists in the homes of these union leaders. Male egos have always to be appeased: if hurt by their women who may refuse to toe the line, the result may be beatings, walking out of the home, threatening, affairs with other women or curtailing financial support for household expenses.</p> <p>My own experiences of being a victim of marital violence and my husband's infidelity, has made me want to reach out to other women.</p> <p>I decided to stay with the man I married. That does not mean all my marital troubles have ended or been resolved. There are times when I want to walk out on Krishna and start life anew like many courageous women have done before me. But, our son just adores his father. The other reason being, I have seen divorced women reduced below the poverty level.....There are always enough men prowling to exploit.....Even today, I feel most vulnerable. For these reasons I chose to remain in my marriage.....</p> <p>(From "Deepa" in <i>Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in India</i>. Ed. Rinki Bhattacharya)</p>		
V	Based on your reading of the passage, answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)		
9.	How does Deepa reiterate that she was gullible? What is Deepa's observation about the fidelity of men like her husband?	5	K5
10.	What does the passage convey about financial independence for a woman?		
VI	Based on your reading of the passage, answer any one of the following in about 500 words. (1x20=20)		
11.	Do you think that Deepa would have had a stable marriage if she had married the person her parents had chosen for her? Why?	5	K6
12.	What is your response to Deepa's decision to remain in the marriage?		
