

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI-86
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2019-20 and thereafter)

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2024
BRANCH XII - ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED CORE
TITLE : LITERATURE AND GENDER
SUBJECT CODE : 19EL/AC/GD45
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX.MARKS: 100**

SECTION A

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

1. “We teach girls to shrink themselves, to make themselves smaller. We say to girls, you can have ambition, but not too much. You should aim to be successful, but not too successful. Otherwise, you would threaten the man.”- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in *We Should All Be Feminists*. Comment on the statement and present your views on breaking gender stereotypes in *Top Girls*.
2. Discuss the intersection of racism and sexism in Grace Nichols “The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping”.
3. Gender is a social construct. Analyse the statement by tracing the struggles that Revathi encountered in her life as a transgender.
4. Shashi Deshpande’s female protagonists move from feminine consciousness to self-affirmation in *Small Remedies*. Justify the statement, focusing on their journey towards self- discovery and independence from patriarchal and social barriers.

SECTION B

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

5. Analyse the character of Savitribai Indorekar. How does she use her intelligence and education to subvert gender stereotypes in *Small Remedies*?
6. Comment on how Grace Nichols’ poem rewrites the myth of Black female beauty.
7. Explore the theme of oppressive domesticity in Adrienne Rich’s “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law”.
8. Compare and contrast the lives of Marlene and the guests from literature, history and art, focusing on their self-perception and choices.
9. From “being born as a Doraisamy to becoming Revathi”, elaborate on the humiliation and anguish faced during the gender identity crisis phase.

SECTION C

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

10. MRS. KIDD: Howard's not in today.

MARLENE: Isn't he?

MRS KIDD: He's feeling poorly.

MARLENE: I didn't know. I'm sorry to hear that.

MRS KIDD: The fact is he's in a state of shock. About what's happened.

MARLENE: What has happened?

MRS KIDD: You should know if anyone. I'm referring to you been appointed managing director instead of Howard. He hasn't been at all well all weekend. He hasn't slept for three nights. I haven't slept.

MARLENE: I'm sorry to hear that, Mrs. Kidd. Has he thought of taking sleeping pills?

MRS KIDD: It's very hard when someone has worked all these years.

MARLENE: Business life is full of little setbacks. I'm sure Howard knows that. He'll bounce back in a day or two. We all bounce back.

MRS KIDD: If you could see him you'd know what I'm talking about. What's it going to do to him working for a woman? I think if it was a man he'd get over it as something normal.

MARLENE: I think he's going to have to get over it.
