

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

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2026
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED CORE
COURSE TITLE : LITERATURE AND GENDER
COURSE CODE : 23CE/AC/GD45
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS:100

SECTION A			
Q. No.	Answer any four of the following in about 100 words each: (4 x 5 = 20)	CO	KL
1.	Define patriarchy.	1	1
2.	What is gender inequality?		
3.	List the major themes in Adrienne Rich's "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law".		
4.	What does intersectionality mean according to Kimberlé Crenshaw?		
5.	Describe the historical women represented in the opening scene of <i>Top Girls</i> .		
SECTION B			
Q. No.	Answer any two of the following in about 200 words each: (2 x 10 = 20)	CO	KL
6.	Explain how gender roles are constructed according to Judith Lorber.	2	2
7.	Discuss the plight of the transgender individuals as described in <i>The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story</i> .		
8.	How does Grace Nichols explore intersectional identities in "The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping"?		
SECTION C			
Q. No.	Answer any one of the following in about 300 words each: (1 x 20 = 20)	CO	KL
9.	How does Rudyard Kipling's poem "If" reflect patriarchal notions of masculinity?	3	3
10.	Comment on the significance of the relationship that Arjie shares with Shehan in Shyam Selvadurai's <i>Funny Boy</i> .		
SECTION D			
Q. No.	Answer any one of the following in about 300 words each: (1 x 20 = 20)	CO	KL
11.	Examine how "Girls" by Mrinal Pande highlights the societal preference for male children and its role in reinforcing gender-based hierarchy.	4	4
12.	Analyse how gender intersects with caste, class or sexuality with reference to any two texts prescribed for study.		
SECTION E			
Q. No.	Answer any one of the following in about 300 words each: (1 x 20 = 20)	CO	KL
13.	<p style="text-align: center;">"The Window" by Mary Jean Chang</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>after Marie Howe</i></p> <p>Once in a lifetime, you will gesture at an open window, tell the one who detests the queerness in you that <i>dead</i> <i>daughters do not disappoint</i>, free your</p>	5	5, 6

	<p>sore knees from inching towards a kind of reprieve, declare yourself genderless as hawk or sparrow: an encumbered body let loose from its cage. You will refuse your mother's rage, her spit, her tongue heavy like the heaviest of stones. Your mother's anger is like the sun, which is like love, which is the easiest thing - even on the hardest of days. You will linger, knowing that this standing before an open window is what the living do, that they sometimes reconsider at the slightest touch of grace.</p> <p>a) How does the speaker achieve a sense of selfhood and liberation in the poem? (10 marks)</p> <p>b) From the perspective of the speaker of the poem, describe the world you envision for the future generation. (10 marks)</p>		
14.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Top Girls by Caryl Churchill</i></p> <p>MRS KIDD: But I've been behind him all the way. 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.</p> <p>MARLENE: I think he's going to have to get over it.</p> <p>MRS KIDD: It's me that bears the brunt. I'm not the one that's been promoted. He's not being dominated by me. I've been right behind him, I put him first every inch of the way. And now what do I get? You women this, you women that. It's not my fault. You're going to have to be very careful how you handle him. He's very hurt.</p> <p>MARLENE: Naturally I'll be tactful and pleasant to him, you don't start pushing someone round. I'll consult him over any decisions affecting his department. But that's no different, Mrs Kidd, from any of my other colleagues.</p> <p>MRS KIDD: I think it is different, because he's a man.</p> <p>a) Evaluate the ways in which Mrs. Kidd internalises and perpetuates patriarchal values in this passage. (10 marks)</p> <p>b) Imagine you are a workplace counsellor. What advice would you give Mrs. Kidd to help her reconsider her views on women in leadership roles? (10 marks)</p>	5	5, 6