

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2008–09 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/GD54

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011  
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH  
FIFTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE  
PAPER : LITERATURE AND GENDER  
TIME : 3 HOURS  
MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any THREE of the following in about 750 words each (3x25=75 marks)

1. Show how *Snapshots of A Daughter-in Law* puts the responsibility for personal liberation on the woman herself.
2. Discuss *Small Remedies* as a poignant narrative of healing, acceptance and reaching out.
3. Show how Spiderwoman theatre uses the dramatic form to entertain, educate and sensitize audiences.
4. Bring out the pathos and the humour in *The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping*.
5. Bring out the trauma in the transformation from being Saravanan to becoming Vidya.

SECTION B

III. Bring out the feminist concerns in any one of the following excerpts in about 300 words (1x25=25 marks)

- a) There were sounds of the house waking up. One by one the men were passing through the kitchen to reach the well in the courtyard behind the house. They were brushing their teeth noisily, making a variety of sounds. Padmini and her sisters-in-law busied themselves heating the fresh milk and making coffee. They served the elderly women first, then the set of brothers. When Padmini gave her husband Balaraman his cup of coffee, he took it without a word and started sipping his coffee. After the men finished their round of coffee, Padmini and the other daughters-in-law mixed up the remaining dregs of the percolated coffee along with the stale left-overs of the day before and prepared coffee. It was insufficient for the four of them, but they finished gulping it down and then busied themselves with the elaborate preparations for cooking after their bath.

Cooking done, they served the children and the men of the household first. Bending low to serve the men seated on the floor, the young women piled on varieties of vegetables, rice and lentil preparations, serving them generous amounts of freshly-cooked food piping hot, as their mother-in-law and aunt-in-law stood, hovering over the scene, supervising with harsh commands.

OR

- b) ‘Yes, but they’re girls whose fathers have lots of money. You don’t belong to that class. and don’t forget, medicine or no medicine, doctor or no doctor, you still have to get her married, spend money on her wedding. Can you do both? Make yourself a pauper, and will she look after you in your old age? Medicine! Five, six, seven .... God knows how many years. Let her go for a B.Sc. ... you can get her married in two years and our responsibility will be over’.

‘Is that all I am, a responsibility?’

Again he motioned me to silence. ‘Look, she knows how it is. I can pay either for her marriage or her studies. She chooses to be educated. Let her. It’s her choice’.

‘What gives her the right to choose? Have we no say in the matter? And when it comes to the point, I know you’ll have to spend for her wedding as well. We can’t ever evade that responsibility’.

‘We’ll meet that when the time comes. Now, let her go ahead and do what she wants. She’s worked for it ...’

\*\*\*\*\*