

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: EL/AC/HI33

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2007
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : HISTORY OF IDEAS
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS : 100**

I Attempt FOUR essays (4x10=40)

- a. The major themes of Sartrean Existentialism.
- b. Kant and the Transcendental Aesthetic.
- c. Rousseau as a Romantic.
- d. Hegel's theory of Dialectic.
- e. Karl Marx and Historical Materialism.
- f. Radical Feminism OR Black Feminism.

II. Write short notes on any SIX of the following: (6x5=30)

- a. A Priori
- b. Base - Super Structure
- c. Hegel and Absolute Idea
- d. Pour soi and En soi
- e. Noble Savage
- f. Bad Faith
- g. Apollonian and Dionysian Principles
- h. Nietzsche's Superman

III. Choose TWO passages, identify and comment on what appears to be the underlying philosophy: (2x15=30)

- a. For a while I was going to be a real artist. He thought that was cute but misguided, he said I should study something I'd be able to use because there never have been any important women artists. That was before we were married and I still listened to what he said, so I went into Design and did fabric patterns. Bur he was right, there never have been any ---

--- (some months later)

My status is a problem. They obviously think I'm married. I'm safe wearing my ring. I never threw it out, it's useful for landladies. I sent my parents a postcard after the wedding --- they must have mentioned it to Paul but not the divorce --- I'm waiting for Madame to ask me about the baby. I'm prepared, alerted. I'll tell her I left him in the city, that would be perfectly true only it was a different city, he is better off with my husband, former husband.

(Margaret Atwood, from Surfacing)

- b. The idea of eternal return is a mysterious one and Nietzsche has often perplexed other philosophers with it: to think that everything returns as we once experienced it, and that the recurrence itself seems ad infinitum! What does this mad myth signify? .

Let us therefore agree that the idea of eternal return implies a perspective from which things appear other than as we know them: they appear without the mitigating circumstances of their transitory nature. This mitigating circumstance prevents us from coming to a verdict. For how can we condemn something that is ephemeral in transit? In the sunset of dissolution, everything is illuminated by the aura of nostalgia, even the guillotine.

(Milan Kundera, from The Unbearable Lightness of Being)

- c. Pike, three inches long, perfect
Pike in all parts, green tigering the gold.
Killers from the egg; the malevolent aged grin
They dance on the surface among the flies.

Or move, stunned by their own grandeur,
Over a bed of emerald, silhouette
Of submarine delicacy and horror.
A hundred feet long in their world.

Three we kept behind glass,
Jungled in weed; three inches, four
And four and a half; fed fry to them –
Suddenly there were two. Finally one.

With a sag belly and the grin it was born with,
And indeed they spare nobody,
Two, six pounds each, over two feet long,
High and dry and dead in the willow herb –

One jammed past its gills down the other's gullet:
The outside eye stared: as a vice locks –
The same iron in this eye
Though its film shrank in death.

(Ted Hughes, from 'Pike')
