

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2011 –12 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/AC/SS24

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2015
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SECOND SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO SUBALTERN STUDIES
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. From a subaltern perspective, attempt an analysis of any TWO of the three passages and answer the questions given below each passage. (2x20=40 marks)

- a. But Kunti needs to speak. She still has something to say. Every day she feels weaker, more exhausted. Looking after Dritarashtra and Gandhari, settling them safely in the ashram hut, she feels as if she can hardly move--- when will she be able to speak her mind? She may as well talk to these trees, the river, the birds, the murmuring leaves, the wind, even to the nishadins. Who, even if they hear her, won't understand. Won't ask any questions.

1. Explain the themes of silence and speech in the given lines.
2. Comment on the significance of the last line in the extract.

- b. when I was growing up, people would ask
If I were Filipino, Polynesian, Portuguese,
they named all colors except white, the shell
of my soul but not rough dark skin.

when I was growing up, I felt
dirty. I thought that god
made white people clean
and no matter how much I bathed,
I could not change, I could not shed
my skin in the gray water.

1. Explain the metaphor in the line "...the shell of my soul but not rough dark skin".
2. Comment on the use of the words 'dirty' and 'clean' in the poem.

- c. "We plead to each other,
we all come from the same rock
we all come from the same rock
ignoring the fact that we bend at different temperatures
that each of us is malleable up to a point."

1. What is the predominant theme of the poem?
2. Explain the metaphor in the given lines.

SECTION B

II. Answer any TWO of the following in about 500 words each: (2x20=40 marks)

1. Identify the subaltern themes in “Kunti and The Nishadin”.
2. Discuss Nellie Wong’s identity crisis in “When I was Growing Up”.
3. Analyze *The First Lady and the Terrorist* from a subaltern perspective.
4. Comment on symbolism and imagery in Cherrie Moraga’s “The Welder”.

III Answer any ONE of the following in about 500 words: (1x20=20 marks)

1. How does Ranajit Guha describe the ‘elite’ and the ‘subaltern’ in the historiography of Colonial India?

OR

2. Discuss your understanding of Paulo Friere’s idea of critical consciousness.
