

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

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/MC/GD64

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

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND GENDER
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 750 words each. (4x20=80 marks)

- a. Bring out the aspects of feminist angst in “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law”.
Or
- b. Show how literary and historical icons stand out as beacons of hope for the woman in “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law”.
- c. Explore the theme of love and loss in *Small Remedies*.
Or
- d. What is the price demanded of a woman who lives life on her own terms? Answer with reference to *Small Remedies*.
- e. Bring out the challenges of the life of a hijra in Revathi’s autobiography.
Or
- f. Comment on Revathi’s fight for dignity in a society that does not accept difference.
- g. Do you agree that Spider Woman Theatre puts forward a strong and effective method to fight gender stereotyping? Explain with illustrations.
Or
- h. Examine the importance of oral traditions in establishing a female presence with reference to Spider Woman Theatre.

SECTION B

II. Bring out the gender concerns in any one of the following excerpts in about 600 words: (1x20=20 marks)

1. *Lord is aggravating
Nothing soft and bright and billowing
to flow like breezy sunlight
when she walking*

*The fat black woman curses in Swahili/Yoruba
and nation language under her breathing
all this journeying and journeying
The fat black woman could only conclude
that when it come to fashion
the choice is lean
Nothing much beyond size 14*

Or

2. When I think of this story- and I do so often- I remember not only Joe, but Som too, and his pleasure in reviving those moments of happiness. Now, for the first time, my own words come back to me, the line I quoted haunts me and I wonder, why did I say that line? What brought it to my mind then? A stray impulse? Some thought that connected to it? A thought I've now forgotten? A desire, like Tony said, to show off? Or was it none of these things, but something outside me, instead, that propelled me into saying that line, a force, a factor over which we had no self control? A kind of nudge, a warning of the shadow waiting for us in the future?

The moment of knowledge. And I, the Eve, offering it to the three males there. Adam must have looked at Eve the way the three males looked at me at that moment. The apple of knowledge set against the illusion of Paradise. Who needs it? And why do you bring it to us?
