

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2004 – 05 & thereafter)
SUBJECT CODE: EL/MC/WW64
B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2008
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SIXTH SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – CORE
PAPER : WOMEN’S WRITING
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION – A

- I. Answer any ONE of the following in about 1000 words. **(1x25=25)**
- a. What is ‘difference’ in women’s writing? Illustrate with examples.
 - b. Examine how ‘female creativity’ has struggled for self-definition in a male-oriented world with suitable examples.
 - c. Comment on the revisioning of private space in any one prescribed text.

SECTION – B

- II. Answer any THREE of the following in about 500 words each. **(3x20=60)**
1. Discuss how Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “Yellow Wallpaper” becomes a metaphor for women’s discourse.
 2. Alice Walker’s essay “In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens,” “starts where women must begin: various types of oppression by men, a woman’s response directed to men rather than to other women and the silence that locks a women’s potential in stasis.” Discuss.
 3. “The weight, the pace, the stride of a man’s mind produce a male literary style against which Woolf defines a female style of unity.” Discuss.
 4. In Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte seems to offer a clear expression of woman’s self-assertion. Discuss.
 5. Examine how Judith Wright employs imagery, metaphor, alliteration and biblical illusion to make woman’s subjectivity central to her poem, “Eve to her Daughters”.
 6. Antoinette Cosway, the white West Indian Woman of Jean Rhys’ Wide Sargasso Sea has come to stand for a form of “native” resistance to English patriarchal power. Discuss.
 7. In “Caged Bird”, Maya Angelou describes her efforts to adapt to the role of a young black girl, the painfully humorous failures, and the gradual realisation of how to transcend the restrictions. Substantiate with instances from the text.
 8. Adrienne Rich in her poetry tries to give birth to - “a recognizable, autonomous self, a creation in poetry and in life.” Examine “Snapshots of a Daughter in Law” against this statement.
- III. Critically analyse ONE of the following passages with reference to theme and strategy. **(1x15=15)**
- a. You, once a belle in Shreveport,
With henna-colored hair, skin like a peach bud,
Still have your dresses copied from that time,
and play a Chopin prelude

called by Cortot: "Delicious recollections float like perfume through the memory."

Your mind now, moldering like wedding-cake heavy with useless experience, rich with suspicion, rumor, fantasy, crumbling to pieces under the knife-edge of mere fact. In the prime of your life.

- b. I went to my window, opened it, and looked out. There were the two wings of the building; there was the garden; there were the skirts of Lowood; there was the hilly horizon. My eye passed all other objects to rest on those most remote the blue peaks; it was those I longed to surmount; all within their boundary of rock and heath seemed prison ground, exile limits. I traced the white road winding round the base of one mountain, and vanishing in a gorge between two; how I longed to follow it farther! I recalled the time when I had travelled that very road in a coach; I remembered descending that hill at twilight; an age seemed to have elapsed since the day which brought me first to Lowood and I had never quitted it since. My vacations had all been spent at school: Mrs. Reed had never sent for me to Gateshead; neither she nor any of her family had ever been to visit me. I had no communication by letter or message with the outer world: school-rules, school-duties, school-habits and notions, and voices, and faces, and phrases, and costumes, and preferences, and antipathies... such was what I knew of existence. And now I felt that it was not enough; I tired of the routine of eight years in one afternoon. I desired liberty; for liberty I gasped; for liberty I uttered a prayer; it seemed scattered on the wind then faintly blowing. I abandoned it and framed a humbler supplication; for change, stimulus: that petition, too, seemed swept off into vague space: "Then, I cried, half desperate, "grant me at least a new servitude!"
