

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2012 –13 & thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 11EL/AC/LI44

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2016

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND IDEAS
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION A

I. Write short notes in about 100 words each on any four of the following: (4x5=20)

1. Explain Schopenhauer's conviction that for the philosopher, "the will" is "the key to his own phenomenon."
2. What are the key concepts of Rousseau's "Social Contract"?
3. What is Karl Marx's concept of social structure?
4. What is bell hooks' contribution to feminist theory?
5. Explain "Geist" in the context of Hegelian theory.
6. Write a note on Sartre's "freedom."

II. Write essays on any three of the following in about 750 words each: (3x20=60)

1. Identify and discuss Nietzschean ideas (Apollonian and Dionysian) in Ted Hughes' poem "Tiger Psalm."
2. Write an essay on existentialist angst, as portrayed through Gregor, the protagonist of *Metamorphosis*.
3. How does Charles Darwin's concept of the survival of the fittest find application in the industrialised and mechanised Victorian England of Dickens' novel *Hard Times*?
4. Write an essay on German Romanticism and its influence on English Romantic poets with reference to Wordsworth's *Prelude*.
5. How does *Breaking Ties* by Sara Aboobacker qualify as "feminist" writing? Explain with reference to Toril Moi's "Feminist, Female, Feminine."

III. Analyse the following poem applying your understanding of feminist thought: (20x1=20)

Phenomenal Woman (by Maya Angelou)

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say,
It's in the reach of my arms,
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them,
They say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing,
It ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
the palm of my hand,
The need for my care.
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.
