

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 2016
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
SIXTH SEMESTER

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

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

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

- a. Examine Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law as a feminist rejection of marriage and its attendant patriarchal values.

Or

- b. Do you think that Adrienne Rich puts the responsibility for liberation on the woman herself? What must she do if she is to be free even within marriage? Answer with reference to “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law.”

- c. For all their personal tragedies, Shashi Deshpande’s women are women of substance, seeking strength in small remedies. Comment.

Or

- d. Examine feminist concerns in *Small Remedies*.

- e. How is the transgender’s struggle for identity different from or similar to a woman’s under patriarchy?

Or

- f. Describe the lifestyle of the transgender as experienced by the protagonist in *The Truth About Me*.

- g. Explain how humour is used to highlight feminist concerns in *Spider Woman Theatre*.

Or

- h. Discuss feminist themes in any text prescribed for your study.

SECTION B

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

1.

***The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping
by Grace Nichols***

<p>Shopping in London winter is a real drag for the fat black woman going from store to store in search of accommodating clothes and de weather so cold</p> <p>Look at the frozen thin mannequins fixing her with grin and de pretty face salesgals exchanging slimming glances thinking she don't notice</p> <p>Lord is aggravating</p>	<p>Nothing soft and bright and billowing to flow like breezy sunlight when she walking</p> <p>The fat black woman curses in Swahili/Yoruba and nation language under her breathing all this journeying and journeying</p> <p>The fat black woman could only conclude that when it come to fashion the choice is lean</p> <p>Nothing much beyond size 14</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GRACE NICHOLS</p>
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2. He goes off to work in a while and she and I gave the house to ourselves. It's a large house, nevertheless we keep blundering into each other and I have the sense of being a huge intrusive presence. During breakfast she speaks of her plans and asks me about mine. She's going to work late today, she'll be home in the morning so that she can help me to get to know the house and its routine. There's a cook who will come later to prepare lunch. Do I want to go to Savithribai's house before lunch or after? I haven't thought of visiting her today, I don't have any definite plans about seeing her, but now it is impossible to say this. 'After lunch, maybe,' I reply. She looks relieved. This fits into her plans. "I'll take you there" she says. "I'll show you the way. You can walk back home, it's not too far.
