

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2015 – 16 and thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/PC/WW14

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2016
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR CORE
PAPER : WOMEN’S WRITING
TIME : 3 HOURS **MAX. MARKS: 100**

SECTION A

I. Answer any FOUR of the following in about 300 words each: (4x10=40)

1. According to Simone de Beauvoir, why do women submit to male dominance without contesting male sovereignty?
2. What are the objections that Elaine Showalter raises against Virginia Woolf’s idea of the “androgynous mind”?
3. Why, according to bell hooks, do black women occupy “an unusual position” in the society they live in?
4. Why do the narratives from the perspective of the abducted women raise “serious questions regarding the Indian State’s definition of itself”?
5. Adrienne Rich concludes her essay with the declaration “we have our own work cut out for us.” What is the task that is cut out for women?
6. According to Toril Moi, how does the feminist critic unwittingly undermine the impact of her challenge to the institution of traditional male academic hierarchy?

SECTION B

II. Answer any THREE of the following questions in about 850 words each: (3x20=60)

7. Maya Angelou speaks for her gender as well as her race through her poems. Illustrate this from the poems you have read.
8. Do you believe that *The Palace of Illusions* is a feminist retelling of the Mahabharata? Substantiate your opinion with illustrations from the novel.
9. How does Mahasweta Devi’s “Draupadi” deconstruct traditional male structures of power?
10. How does Laura Esquivel’s portrayal of *Malinche* challenge the misogynistic presentation of the myth of Malinche in patriarchal discourse?
11. According to Virginia Woolf “A woman’s writing is always feminine; it cannot help being feminine.” Do you discern any distinctively feminine characteristics in the works of the women writers you have read? Substantiate your views from the works prescribed for study.
