

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2017
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND GENDER
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer the following in about 750 words each. (2x20=40)

1. Discuss Adrienne Rich's views on female individualism in "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law."

OR

2. The staging of *Top Girls* challenges the expectations of the audience. How does the narrative style of the play reinforce its thematic focus?
3. Discuss the effect of heteronormative gender construction on the transgender community with reference to A. Revathi's autobiography.

OR

4. Comment on Grace Nichols contesting the bias against women "being fat, being black and being a woman" through her poem.

SECTION B

II. Answer any three of the following in about 300 words each. (3x15=45)

1. Analyse *Small Remedies* as "a woman's journey of self-discovery through the convergence of time – past and present".
2. Discuss any two texts prescribed to examine the idea of self-affirmation of the women protagonists.
3. How does the speaker in "Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law" achieve a personal transformation? What is this transformation?
4. Comment on how *Top Girls* dramatises gender prejudice in the public space.
5. Comment on how the fat woman's body becomes a site of struggle between the forces of patriarchal control and feminine resistance.

SECTION C

III. Bring out the feminist concerns in the following excerpt in about 300 words.

15 marks

Time is male

.....
.....
our mediocrities over-praised,
indolence read as abnegation,
slattern thought styled intuition,
every lapse forgiven, our crime
only to cast too bold a shadow
or smash the mold straight off.
For that, solitary confinement,
tear gas, attrition shelling.
Few applicants for that honor.

Critically comment on the above lines in terms of the satirical language, anger against the 'othering' of women and gender violence.
