

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2017
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. Examine Simone de Beauvoir's arguments that show that women are "pure alterity, the *Other* like no other."
2. According to Virginia Woolf "it is fatal for anyone who writes to think of their sex." How does she justify this view?
3. What are bell hooks' major objections to feminism in the United States?
4. How do Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin present an "alternative construction" of the Partition?
5. What are Adrienne Rich's arguments in support of her statement that "Re-vision ... is an act of survival"?
6. How does Toril Moi's reading of Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* differ from Elaine Showalter's reading?

SECTION B

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

7. Maya Angelou celebrates the women of her race in her poems. Illustrate this from the poems you have read.
8. In *The Palace of Illusions* Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni attempts to construct a "timeless and modern" female identity from a text that is apparently misogynistic. Do you believe that she succeeds? Substantiate your opinion with illustrations from the novel.
9. How does Mahasweta Devi's 'Draupadi' use her gender as a weapon of counter resistance?
10. How does Laura Esquivel appropriate the character of Malinche and turn her into a symbol of resistance to patriarchal misogyny?
11. Adrienne Rich asserts that "a change in the concept of sexual identity is essential" for women to break the hold of tradition on women. She lays the responsibility of bringing about this change on the shoulders of the women writers. Do you think that women writers have succeeded in changing the concept of sexual identity? Substantiate your views from the works prescribed for study.