

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086  
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2018–2019)

SUBJECT CODE: 18CE/AC/SW15

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2018  
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED CORE  
PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO SUBALTERN WRITING  
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any three questions in about 200 words each: (3x15=45)

1. Comment on the symbolic significance of the title “The First Lady and the Terrorist” by Saeed Akhtar Mirza?
2. How does Mahasweta Devi represent the voice of ‘the other’ in “Kunti and the Nishadin”?
3. Discuss the theme of identity crisis in Nellie Wong’s “When I was Growing Up”?
4. Comment on the subaltern standpoint in Sugirtha Rani’s “The Smell of Meat.”
5. Discuss the significance of Paulo Friere’s idea of critical consciousness.

SECTION B

II. Answer any two of the following in about 600 words each: (2x20=40)

1. Critically analyse the characters in Mahasweta Devi’s “Kunti and the Nishadin.”
2. Discuss the subaltern themes and techniques in Saeed Akhtar Mirza’s film script “The First Lady and the Terrorist.”
3. Enumerate the subaltern concerns in Frantz Fanon’s *The Wretched of the Earth*.
4. Comment on themes and techniques in subaltern poetry.

SECTION C

III. Analyse any one of the passages given below: (1x15=15)

- a. when I was growing up, people would ask  
If I were Filipino, Polynesian, Portuguese,  
they named all colors except white, the shell  
of my soul but not rough dark skin.

when I was growing up, I felt  
dirty. I thought that god  
made white people clean  
and no matter how much I bathed,  
I could not change, I could not shed  
my skin in the gray water.

1. Explain the metaphor in the line "...the shell of my soul but not rough dark skin".
2. Comment on the use of words 'dirty' and 'clean' in the poem.

b. "We plead to each other,  
*we all come from the same rock*  
*we all come from the same rock*  
ignoring the fact that we bend at different temperatures  
that each of us is malleable up to a point."

1. What is the predominant theme of the poem?
2. Explain the metaphor in the given lines.

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