

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI 600 086
(For candidates admitted during the academic year 2015 – 2016 and thereafter)

SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/PC/WW14

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2018
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. Evaluate Simone de Beauvoir's contention that woman is the constructed 'other' of a universal self that is always invested with male norms. Illustrate with specific instances from her *Introduction: The Second Sex*.
2. Discuss the themes of freedom and confinement as elaborated by Virginia Woolf in *A Room of One's Own*.
3. Aesthetic androgyny represented no more than a means of flight to Woolf, a "myth that helped her evade confrontation with her own painful femaleness and enabled her to choke and repress her anger and ambition. Substantiate Showalter's perception of flight and androgyny.
4. *The Palace of Illusions* takes us back to a time that is half history, half myth, and wholly magical. Discuss each of these elements as found in the novel.
5. How does Toril Moi foreground the idea of Anglo-American Feminism vis-à-vis the French Feminist agenda?
6. bell hooks argues that women share "bonds of sisterhood" throughout both race and class lines. Elaborate.

SECTION B

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

7. "Re-vision – the act of looking back, of seeing with fresh eyes, of entering an old text from a new critical direction - is for us more than a chapter in cultural history: it is an act of survival." Do you agree with Rich? Elaborate.

8. Critically examine the role of Malinalli as the mediator between two cultures, Hispanic and Native American, and two languages, Spanish and Náhuatl.

9. “Dopdi knows, has learned by hearing so often and so long, how one can come to terms with torture. If mind and body give way under torture, Dopdi will bite off her tongue.” Explicate the elements of violence in Mahasweta Devi’s short story with reference to the above lines.

10. “There is a kind of strength that is almost frightening in black women. It's as if a steel rod runs right through the head down to the feet.” Analyse these words of Maya Angelou using illustrations from her poems.

11. Women became the most vulnerable and least protected victims. Discuss the prominent themes of abduction and honour as presented in Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin’s work.
