

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

SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/AC/GD45

B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2019

BRANCH XII – ENGLISH

FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED – CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND GENDER
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS : 100

SECTION A

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

1. How do Grace Nichols and Adrienne Rich in their poetry critique gender biases and gender stereotyping?
2. What feminist concerns are foregrounded through the lives of Savitribai, Leela and Madhu in *Small Remedies*?
3. “Revathi’s autobiography is a narrative of people like her, who live in liminal spaces, whom people in the mainstream ignore, are uneducated about and sometimes are actively hostile towards.” Substantiate.
4. Why is the choice between career and parenting a difficult one for women like Marlene? How does Caryl Churchill problematise this in her play?

SECTION B

II. Answer any three of the following in about 300 words each. (3 x 15=45)

5. What is your opinion about Adrienne Rich’s use of allusions in her poem “Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law”?
6. What are the central concerns of Nichols’s poem, “The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping”?
7. Explain the significance of the title *Small Remedies*.
8. Comment on the techniques used by Caryl Churchill in *TopGirls* to integrate the diverse voices of her women characters.
9. How does Revathi portray her unease in the wrong body? What do you infer about gender construction from her life story?

SECTION C

III. Analyse the following poem commenting on the technique, tone and style employed by Grace Nichols to bring out the nexus between gender and racism: (1x15=15)

Shopping in London winter
is a real drag for the fat black woman

going from store to store
in search for accommodating clothes
and de weather so cold
Look at the frozen thin mannequins
fixing her with grin
and de pretty sales gals
exchanging slimming glances
thinking she don't notice
Lord is aggravating
nothing soft and bright and billowing
to flow life breezy sunlight
when she walking
The fat black woman curses in Swahili/Yoruba
and nation language under her breath
all this journeying and journeying
The fat black woman could only conclude
that when it came to fashion
the choice is lean
Nothing much beyond a size 14
