

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

SUBJECT CODE: 15EL/PC/LM44

M. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2019
BRANCH VII – ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER

COURSE : CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND MYSTICISM
TIME : 3 HOURS

MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Answer any three of the following in about 500 words each: (3x10=30)

1. 'The mystical resonances in "Batter My Heart Three-Person'd God" are foregrounded by the use of resolvable paradoxes.' Comment.
2. 'Sundarar's "O Madman" showcases the happy irreverence to god, typical of Indian mystical poetry.' Discuss.
3. Discuss Kabir's "Where are you searching for me my friend?" in the light of Shabnam Virami's comment "Let go off the historical Kabir . . . It is not the brand Kabir that people identify with, it is the feeling about what he represents."
4. Bring out the "monism holding to the unity of the world and God and the immanence of God in the world" in Emily Dickinson's "By Intuition Mighty Things".
5. "Mystical poetry is not pointlessly erotic." Discuss this statement with reference to the soul-god relationship in poems prescribed for study.

SECTION B

II. Answer any two of the following in about 1000 words each: (2x25=50)

1. Respond to Arundhati Subramanian's comment that "Bhakti poetry brings its own very particular rewards. The poems offer sanctuary, companionship, illumination — signposts on what often is a turbulent and uncertain journey." with reference to the texts prescribed for study.
2. How does Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of Brother Sun" bring to the fore, in mystical terms, "a network of interdependencies"?
3. Discuss Mahadevi Akka and Rajai as female mystics, with specific reference to their unique use of poetic language.
4. Discuss the interface between mystical experience and the art of poetry using the prescribed sections from the *Pslams* and the *Song of Solomon* as your reference points.

SECTION C

III. Analyse the following poem in about 750 words.

(1 x 20=20)

The Divine Image

William Blake

To Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love
Is Man, his child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And Love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk, or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love, and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.
