



B.A./4th Sem (H)/ENG/25(CBCS)New

2025

4th Semester Examination

ENGLISH (Honours)

Paper : GE 4-T

[Contemporary India : Women and Empowerment]

(New Syllabus)

[Revised Syllabus, w.e.f. Session 2022-23]

[CBCS]

Full Marks : 60

Time : Three Hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers

in their own words as far as practicable.

Group - A

Answer any *ten* questions : $2 \times 10 = 20$

1. Who introduced the idea of "gender performativity"?
2. Define 'gender'.
3. Mention any two manifestations of gender discrimination?
4. What is 'toxic masculinity'? Mention one feature of it.

P.T.O.

5. Name two Indian feminist critics who have championed the cause of women through their influential writings and activism.
6. What is the main goal of gender budgeting? Name one tool used in gender budgeting.
7. In which year were the Vishaka Guidelines formulated and what was their main purpose?
8. Mention one constitutional article that ensures gender equality.
9. Mention the year in which the protection of women from Domestic Violence Act was passed.
10. Name two prominent organizations working for women's legal rights in India.
11. Mention any two features of 'Lady land'.
12. How many years did Bama spend in the convent, and why did she decide to leave it?
13. Why do women have a short workday in Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's "Sultana's Dream"?
14. Apart from Bama's *Karukku*, mention any two testimonios by Dalit women.
15. In which language was Bama's *Karukku* originally written? What does "Karukku" literally mean?

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Group - B

Answer any *four* questions : $5 \times 4 = 20$

16. Briefly define masculinity and femininity from a sociological perspective.
17. How does feminism define patriarchy?
18. Write a short note on the constitutional provisions that safeguard the rights of women in India.
19. What is the significance of the 'Afterword' to the English edition of '*Karukku*'?
20. Write a short note on the reversal of gender roles in Ladyland as depicted in Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's "Sultana's Dream".
21. Briefly discuss the role of education in empowering women as portrayed in Bama's *Karukku*.

Group - C

Answer any *two* questions : $10 \times 2 = 20$

22. What are gender roles? Discuss how traditional gender roles affect men and women in Indian society.
23. Briefly discuss the main causes of domestic violence in India and the steps that can be taken to reduce it.

P.T.O.

24. Discuss Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's "Sultana's Dream" as a feminist utopia that challenges patriarchal norms and advocates for women's education.
 25. Discuss the themes of caste discrimination and Dalit identity as portrayed in Bama's *Karukku*.
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(Gender and Human Rights)

Group - A

Answer any *ten* questions : $2 \times 10 = 20$

1. What is the significance of fire imagery in the poem "Aggression"?
2. What shape do the 'inward struggles' take in Kandasamy's "Aggression"?
3. How does Meena Kandasamy's poem "Aggression" end?

P.T.O.

4. Why does the speaker say that her tongue is a weapon in "Aggression"?
5. In which year was Temsula Ao's *Labburnum for My Head* published? Which award did the author receive for this work?
6. Why does the speaker choose laburnum instead of other trees?
7. How does Lentina redefine her relationship with Babu?
8. What is the real incident that prompted Padmanabhan to write the play *Lights Out*?
9. Why does Leela want her husband Bhaskar to call the police?
10. What does the phrase "What can we do"? suggest in Padmanabhan's *Lights Out*?
11. 'Outsiders can never really be a judge of who is right and who is wrong' — why does the speaker come to such a conclusion?
12. Mention the date and year of the delivery of speech published as *Professions for Women*.
13. What autobiographical elements have you found in the opening paragraph of *Professions for Women* by Virginia Woolf?

14. What does the Beijing Declaration and platform for Action deal with?
15. How does the United Nations define reproductive health as a significant features of the women's rights?

Group - B

Answer any *four* questions : $5 \times 4 = 20$

16. Critically appreciate Meena Kandasamy's poem "Aggression"?
17. What relationship does Letina share with her Servant in *Laburnum for My Head*?
18. Comment on the role of Surinder in *Lights out*.
19. Explain the importance of silence in *Lights out*.
20. According to Virginia Woolf, what are the two main obstacles to women's professional identity? Answer with reference to *Professions for Women*.
21. How does the United Nations define women's rights to nationality in "The Human Rights Framework in practice"?

P.T.O.

Group - C

Answer any *two* questions : $10 \times 2 = 20$

22. Meena Kandasamy's poetry is powerful testimony to the anti-caste feminist literature' — Write your answer with reference to "Aggression".
 23. Critically analyse the use of symbols in Temsula Ao's "Laburnum for My Head".
 24. How does Manjula Padmanabhan explore the theme of Sexual violence in *Lights Out*? Discuss.
 25. In *Profession for Women* Virginia Woolf explores the consequences of being unable to tell 'the truth' about her own 'experiences as a body'. What does she mean by it? Explicate.
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OR

(Environment and Literature)

Group - A

Answer any *ten* questions : $2 \times 10 = 20$

1. What is meant by 'environmental justice'?
2. Give two basic tenets of 'ecofeminism'.
3. Why does Hopkins call the poplar trees 'aspens of air'?
4. Why does Hopkins repeat the word 'felled' in 'All felled, felled, are all felled' in "Binsey Poplars"?
5. What does the phrase 'sandalled shadow' in "Binsey Poplars" suggest?
6. What human actions are meant by the words "delve or hew"?
7. What does the line "To mend her we end her" in "Binsey Poplars" suggest about human interference in nature?
8. In "Pterodactyl", how do villagers perceive the bird?
9. What is the profession of Puran Sahay in Mahasweta Devi's "Pterodactyl"?
10. What is the significance of the setting in Mahasweta Devi's story "Pterodactyl"?

P.T.O.

11. Why is the Pterodactyl described as a “ghost from prehistory”?
12. Who is Bisnu and where does he live?
13. Why did Bisnu leave his village for Mussoorie?
14. How does Pritam help Bisnu?
15. What role did the strong tree play in saving the lives in *Dust on the Mountain*?

Group - B

Answer any *four* questions : 5×4=20

16. Show how Hopkins voices an ecological warning in “Binsey Poplars”?
17. “O if we but knew what we do/ When we delve or hew –/ Hack and rack the growing green!” — Comment.
18. Comment on the role of the Pterodactyl in Mahasweta Devi’s story “Pterodactyl”.
19. “Pterodactyl is a story of both memory and fossilization” — Comment.
20. Comment on Ruskin Bond’s concern for mountain ecology in *Dust on the Mountain*.
21. Comment on the issue of poverty and migration as reflected in *Dust on the Mountain*.

Group - C

Answer any *two* questions : 10×2=20

22. Do you consider G.M. Hopkins's "Binsey Poplars" as a poem of ecological mourning and spiritual depth? Discuss.
 23. Critically analyse Mahasweta Devi's story "Pterodactyl" as a text of environmental injustice and tribal marginalisation.
 24. How does Ruskin Bond portray the conflict between livelihood and environment in *Dust on the Mountain*? Discuss.
 25. Justify the significance of the title of Ruskin Bond's *Dust on the Mountain*.
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