



Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women

Deemed to be University Estd. u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956, Category A by MHRD (now MoE)

Re-accredited with A++ Grade by NAAC. CGPA 3.65/4, Category I by UGC

Coimbatore - 641 043, Tamil Nadu, India

Bachelor's Degree Examination – November 2025

V Semester

Class: III UG
Major: English

Time: 3 Hours
Max. Marks: 100

23BENC09 Women's Writing

Course Outcomes:

Recognise the importance of gender specificity in literature
Understand and appreciate the representation of feminine experience in literature
Explain the difference between the feminine and the feminist as opposed to the female
Examine and appreciate the role played by socio-cultural-economic contexts in defining woman
Link the status of women to social discrimination and social change

Part A

10 x 1 = 10

Choose the Correct Answer

1. In Sylvia Plath's "Daddy," the speaker compares her father to a _____ CO1 K1
a. King b. Nazi
c. Doctor d. Teacher
2. Who wrote "A Vindication of the Rights of Women"? CO3 K1
a. Virginia Woolf b. Simone de Beauvoir
c. Mary Wollstonecraft d. Eunice De Souza
3. The autobiography "Amar Jiban" was written by _____ CO4 K1
a. Pandita Ramabai b. Rassundari Devi
c. Mahasweta Devi d. Ramabai Ranade
4. The protagonist of *The Color Purple* is _____ CO2 K1
a. Shug Avery b. Nettie
c. Celie d. Sofia
5. In "Advice to Women," Eunice De Souza advises women to keep _____ CO1 K2
a. Cats b. Diaries
c. Photographs d. Silence
6. "Bliss" by Katherine Mansfield explores _____ CO5 K2
a. Political revolution b. Female epiphany and disillusionment
c. War trauma d. Religious conversion
7. Mahasweta Devi's "Draupadi" is a critique of _____ CO4 K3
a. Patriarchal marriage b. State violence and tribal oppression
c. Urban alienation d. Colonial education
8. Emily Dickinson's poem "I'm 'Wife' – I've finished that" reflects _____ CO2 K2
a. Celebration of marriage b. Loss of identity in marital roles
c. Religious devotion d. Political protest
9. The term "feminine" as opposed to "feminist" refers to _____ CO3 K2
a. Biological traits only b. Culturally constructed ideals of womanhood
c. Political activism for rights d. Economic independence
10. In *The Color Purple*, letters are used as a means of _____ CO5 K3
a. Legal evidence b. Emotional survival and self-expression
c. Religious preaching d. Political manifesto

Part B

5 x 6 = 30

Answer ALL questions

Each answer should not to exceed 400 words or two pages

- 11.a. Analyze how Sylvia Plath uses Holocaust imagery in “Daddy” to express personal trauma. CO2 K4
(or)
- 11.b. Compare the tone and theme of Emily Dickinson’s poems ‘I cannot live with you’ and ‘I’m ‘Wife’ and I’ve finished that.’ CO1 K4
- 12.a. Explain Mary Wollstonecraft’s argument for women’s rational education in Chapter 2 of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. CO3 K4
(or)
- 12.b. How does Wollstonecraft challenge 18th-century notions of “feminine virtue”? CO5 K4
- 13.a. Examine how “Amar Jiban” reflects the intersection of gender, caste, and literacy in 19th-century Bengal. CO4 K5
(or)
- 13.b. Discuss Ramabai Ranade’s testimony as a document of women’s agency within patriarchal reform movements. CO4 K5
- 14.a. Trace the evolution of Celie’s voice and identity in the first half of *The Color Purple*. CO2 K5
(or)
- 14.b. How does Alice Walker use epistolary form to foreground marginalized female subjectivity? CO5 K5
- 15.a. Interpret the symbolism of the pear tree and the party in Katherine Mansfield’s “Bliss.” CO2 K4
(or)
- 15.b. Analyze how Mahasweta Devi subverts the myth of Draupadi to critique state power and gender violence. CO4 K5

Part C

5 x 12 = 60

Answer ALL questions

Each answer should not to exceed 800 words or four pages

- 16.a. “Women’s poetry often reclaims the body as a site of resistance.” Discuss with special reference to Sylvia Plath and Eunice De Souza’s poems. CO1 K6
(or)
- 16.b. How do Dickinson and Plath challenge conventional representations of womanhood in their poetry? Support with textual examples. CO1 K6
- 17.a. Critically evaluate Mary Wollstonecraft’s “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” as a foundational feminist text. How relevant is it in the 21st century? CO3 K6
(or)
- 17.b. “Wollstonecraft writes not just for women, but against ignorance itself.” Elaborate. CO5 K6
- 18.a. “Autobiography becomes a political act when written by marginalized women.” Discuss with reference to Rassundari Devi and Ramabai Ranade. CO5 K6
(or)
- 18.b. Compare the socio-cultural contexts that shaped the autobiographical writings of Rassundari Devi and Pandita Ramabai. CO5 K4
- 19.a. *The Color Purple* is not just a story of suffering, but of sisterhood, healing, and empowerment.” Elaborate with examples. CO3 K4
(or)
- 19.b. Analyze Alice Walker’s use of language, dialect and form in “*The Color Purple*” as feminist literary strategies. CO5 K4
- 20.a. “Katherine Mansfield’s “Bliss” exposes the emptiness beneath bourgeois femininity.” Discuss. CO3 K4
(or)
- 20.b. How does Mahasweta Devi’s “Draupadi” redefine resistance, dignity and the female body in the context of postcolonial India? CO3 K4
