

(6 Pages)

Reg. No. :

Code No. : 5357

Sub. Code : PEHE 11

M.A. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION, APRIL 2021.

First Semester

English

Elective — LITERATURE AND GENDER

(For those who joined in July 2017 onwards)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 1 = 10 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

Choose the correct answer :

1. Sylvia plath belongs to _____
(a) Africa (b) India
(c) America (d) China
2. What is the highlight of the poem “Blessing”?
(a) Water (b) Air
(c) Land (d) Star

3. What is the main theme of *The Dilemma of a Ghost*?
- (a) Old culture
 - (b) Modern day culture clash
 - (c) Racism
 - (d) Freedom of women
4. *Harvest* won _____ prize in the year 1997.
- (a) Pulitzer
 - (b) Nobel
 - (c) Onassis
 - (d) None of the above
5. What does Mary wish dict would install in the house?
- (a) Proper flooring
 - (b) Ceilings
 - (c) Windows
 - (d) Air conditioning
6. The 'beloved' examines the destructive legacy of _____
- (a) Slavery
 - (b) Black people
 - (c) Poor people
 - (d) Bravery
7. To what everyday object does the narrator liken the enlarging/belittling relationship between men and women?
- (a) Looking-glass
 - (b) Tooth brush
 - (c) Mirror
 - (d) Hair brush

8. Which theory does de Beauvoir criticise for promoting the assumption of sexual difference in nature?
- (a) Platonic myth (b) Friend
(c) Henry (d) Existentialism
9. Who is the author of the fiction “Hotel du Lac”?
- (a) Anita Brookner
(b) Harshitha Ray
(c) Bhavani Shankar
(d) Uma Parameshwaran
10. Karuna is a character in which novel?
- (a) The beloved (b) The Granis singing
(c) Hotel du Lac (d) Socialite evenings

PART B — ($5 \times 5 = 25$ marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 250 words.

11. (a) Describe the mental illness, creativity and societal repression in the poem “Daddy”.

Or

- (b) Explain the theme of the poem “Blessing”.

12. (a) Describe the background of the play “The Dilemma of a Ghost”.

Or

- (b) Sketch the character of Ohm in the play The Harvest.

13. (a) Write a short note on Toni Morrison as a novelist.

Or

- (b) What is slavery? How does slavery influence the life of people in the novel The Grass is singing?

14. (a) What aspect of Virginia Woolf’s background reveals her purpose in writing “A Room of One’s Own”?

Or

- (b) Analyse the strengths and limitations of de Beauvoir’s The Second sex.

15. (a) Sketch the character of Edith in Hotel du Lac.

Or

- (b) Introduce Shobha De as a columnist and novelist.

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 600 words.

16. (a) Critically analyse sylvia plath's prescribed poems.

Or

- (b) Describe the theme of the poem "Battle Line".

17. (a) Explain the plot and structure of "Dilemma of a Ghost".

Or

- (b) What is the major theme of the play The Harvest?

18. (a) Write a critical analysis of the character of Mary in Lessing's novel.

Or

- (b) How does Morrison's novel support the dictum "The personal is political"?

19. (a) Explain Virginia Woolf's objective in writing "A room of One's Own".

Or

- (b) Give a critical summary of de Beauvoir's The Second Sex.

20. (a) Consider the novel Hotel du Lac as a feminist novel.

Or

- (b) Socialite evenings explores “the lives of bored, rich housewives trapped in loveless marriages” – Discuss.
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