

18(D) M.A/Sem-IV/Eng/OC-04/DODL/21
2021

ENGLISH

4th Semester Examination (DODL)

Paper : OC-04

(Women's Writing : Literature and Theory)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 4 Hours

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

GROUP-A

Answer any **four** questions: 15×4=60

1. a) Doris Lessing tries to portray Anna Wulf's ambivalent relationship with communism which she agrees with in theory but finds difficult to cope up with in real life and her "Red Notebook" showcases the decline and disillusionment of Communism in the world. Do you agree with this view? Elucidate.

15

OR

- b) *The Golden Notebook* has often been hailed as a feminist text that focuses on the interminable "war of sexes". Do you think the novel's female characters as champions of feminist ideology or you agree with Lessing herself who declared "this novel was not a trumpet for Women's Liberation?" 15

[Turn over]

2. a) How did the early feminist writer Mary Robinson use the notion of female authorship as a strategy for challenging the pre-conceived and patriarchal notions of femininity in the eighteenth century literary scene? 15

OR

- b) How did the woman poets of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reflect some of the major concerns of radical feminism through their poetical works? Discuss with reference to the poems prescribed in your syllabus. 15
3. a) Mary Astell proposed to establish an all-female educational "monastery" as well as a religious retreat where women could live, study and serve God and in isolation learn the methods of self-cultivation. What do you know of her arguments in favour of this "religious retirement" and the reaction of contemporary society? 15

OR

- b) "Public education of every denomination, should be directed to form citizens..." In the light of this remark, critically evaluate Wollstonecraft's idea of "National Education"

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as explicated in the twelfth chapter of her treatise, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. 15

4. a) What is a 'Kuntslerroman'? Critically analyze Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh* as an appropriate instance of Kunstlerroman with a female-hero. 15

OR

- b) Define 'Androgyny' and comment critically on Virginia Woolf's exposition of the term in her book *A Room of One's Own*. 15

GROUP - B

Answer any **four** questions: 5×4=20

1. a) How would you compare and contrast the characters of and the relationship between the two best friends Anna and Molly in *The Golden Notebook*? 5

OR

- b) What do you know of Anna's first novel *Frontiers of War* which constitutes the major part of her "The Black Notebook"? 5
2. a) Which poems of Samuel Taylor Coleridge were the results of the literary exchanges between him and Mary Robinson and how did Coleridge acknowledge her? 5

OR

- b) **Locate and annotate:**

"Take it.

Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring,
if you like.

Lethal.

Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife."

5

3. a.) The *Proposal* argues that in order to attain both truth and happiness, a woman must follow six reliable rules for thinking. What were these six rules of Mary Astell which bear notable resemblances with Rene Descartes' own set of rules in his *Discourse on the Method*? 5

OR

- b) Comment on Wollstonecraft's critique of the Enlightenment thinkers who proposed that women did not need an education. 5

4. a) **Locate and annotate:**

"I stood upon the brink of twenty years,
And I looked before and after,
as I stood Woman and artist, - either
incomplete,
Both credulous of completion."

5

OR

b) **Comment critically:**

"If we face the fact that there is no arm to cling to...that we go alone...Shakespeare's sister can be born, drawing her life from the lives of those who were her forerunners...the world must be prepared for...[but] she would come if we worked for her, and that so to work, even in property and obscurity, is worthwhile." 5
