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3 (Sem - 5/CBCS) ENG HC 1

2025

**ENGLISH**

(Honours Core)

Paper : ENG - HC - 5016

**(British Literature : The 20th Century)**

Full Marks : 80

Time : Three hours

***The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.***

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10

(a) Fill in the blanks :

“He disappeared in the dead of \_\_\_\_\_ :  
The brooks were \_\_\_\_\_ , the airports  
almost deserted,”  
- Auden

(b) “I should be glad for another death.”  
What does the speaker want to mean here ?

(c) What does the poet recite in the church in the poem, ‘Church Going’ ?

(d) Who is the speaker in the poem, ‘Standing Female Nude’ by Carol Ann Duffy ?



4. Answer **any four** of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) Discuss the animal imagery in Ted Hughes' poem, 'Hawk Roosting'.
  - (b) Write a critical appreciation of either 'The Second Coming' or 'Casualty'.
  - (c) Give a critical estimate of the use of symbolism in W. B. Yeats' poem, 'Sailing to Byzantium'.
  - (d) Would you consider J. Alfred Prufrock as a representative of the human condition in the twentieth century? Discuss.
  - (e) Write an essay on the narrative technique of 'Mrs. Dalloway', showing how this technique differs from the traditional mode of story-telling.
  - (f) How does Virginia Woolf deploy female perspectives on the world to interrogate the world of men in 'Mrs. Dalloway' ? Give a reasoned answer.
  - (g) "In 'Heart of Darkness', knowledge seems to be more important than action." Discuss.
  - (h) Would you agree that 'Heart of Darkness' is flawed in its privileging of the perspective of the coloniser over that of the colonised? Give a well-balanced response.
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3 (Sem - 5/CBCS) ENG HC 2

2025

**ENGLISH**

(Honours Core)

Paper : ENG - HC - 5026

**(Women's Writing)**

Full Marks : 80

Time : Three hours

***The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.***

1. Answer the following/Fill in the blanks : 1×10=10
- (a) "And I a \_\_\_\_\_ woman."
- (b) How did Kuhila Bai's son die in the story, *Celebration*?
- (c) According to Wollstonecraft, "the perfection of our nature and capability of happiness must be estimated" by what?
- (d) What does 'the otherness of lovers' mean in the poem, *Advice to Women*?

- (e) What is there in every Catholic home according to the poem, *Bequest*?
- (f) "A man in black with a \_\_\_\_\_ look."
- (g) Whom does Adrienne Rich address as 'my fierce half brother'?
- (h) Is Senanayak the oppressor of Draupadi? Answer yes or no.
- (i) Who is Bertha's husband in the story, *Bliss*?
- (j) When was *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* published?

2. Answer **any five** of the following questions :  
2×5=10

- (a) How does Adrienne Rich change her view regarding Orion over the course of time?
- (b) How did Dopdi and Dulna escape during the 'Operation Bakuli'?
- (c) What bothers Celie about her father's second wife?
- (d) Why does the speaker smile 'endlessly and vacuously' in the poem, *Bequest*?
- (e) What is Plath's ambivalent relationship with her father?

- (f) Why does Kuhila Bai feel closest to the second Bengali housewife? How is she different from Kuhila Bai?
- (g) Why does Rassundari Devi compare herself to a fish caught in the net?

3. Answer **any four** of the following questions :  
5×4=20

- (a) Critically comment on the character of Kuhila Bai in the story, *Celebration*.
- (b) Narrate, in your own words, Celie's response after the discovery of all the letters sent by her sister.
- (c) How does Plath's 'Electra' complex come through in the poem, *Daddy*?
- (d) How, according to Wollstonecraft, did the writings in circulation contribute to the myth of male supremacy and female weakness?
- (e) Critically comment on the following lines :  
That stare of perpetual surprise  
in those great green eyes  
will teach you  
to die alone.

(f) What role did religion play in the life of Rassundari Devi ?

4. Answer **any four** of the following questions :

10×4=40

(a) Comment on the narrative technique that Katherine Mansfield uses in the story, *Bliss*.

(b) "Rassundari Devi's transgressive desires are at the centre of her life narration." Discuss.

(c) Why does Plath use holocaust imagery ? Do they underplay Lady Lazarus's pain ?

(d) Comment critically on the title of *The Colour Purple*.

(e) "In *Draupadi*, Mahasweta Devi uses many different voices, yet the subaltern thrust of the narrative stands out." Discuss.

(f) "Gender is a social construct." Explain with reference to *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.