

B.A. Semester V (General) Examination 2021 (CBCS)

Subject: English

Paper: GE 1

(Gender and Human Rights)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 60

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

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

1. Answer **any six** of the following questions:

5x6=30

- a. “That particular spot displays nothing that man has improvised; only nature, who does not possess any script, abides there: she only owns the seasons”- Discuss with reference to Tamsila Aoi’s short story “Laburnum for My Head”.
- b. “But the story is running ahead of itself and must be told from the beginning”. Narrate the story in brief as mentioned in Tamsila Aoi’s “Laburnum for My Head”.
- c. Describe the ways in which Leela, in Manjula Padmanabhan’s *Lights Out*, is disturbed as the news of the gang rape of women reaches her ears.
- d. Why does Virginia Woolf think that “killing the Angel in the House was part of the occupation of a woman writer”?
- e. Critically comment on Virginia Woolf’s statement in “Professions for Women” — “... But the second, telling the truth about my own experiences as a body, I do not think I solved.”
- f. “Ah, but what is ‘herself’? I mean, what is a woman?” — What, according to Virginia Woolf, is a woman?
- g. “But not all suppressed reactions /end in our bemoaning the tragedy.”- Explain this statement with reference to the context.
- h. What does Meena Kandasamy mean by “the outward signals” in her poem “Aggression”?

2. Answer **any three** of the following questions:

10x3= 30

- a. Discuss the significance of the title of Meena Kandasamy’s “Aggression”.
 - b. Attempt an ecofeminist reading of Tamsila Aoi’s short story “Laburnum for My Head”.
 - c. Comment critically on the theme of gender inequality in *Lights Out*.
 - d. What, according to Virginia Woolf, are the obstacles to women’s professional identity? Answer with reference to “Professions for Women”.
 - e. Comment critically on the title of Tehmina Durrani’s *Blasphemy*.
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