

30/11/23 F.N

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R – 7351

Reg. No. : .....

Name : .....

**Second Semester M.A. Degree Examination, November 2023**

**English Language and Literature**

**EL 523 : GENDER STUDIES**

**(2022 Admission)**

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks : 75

I Answer any five of the following questions in about 50 words.

1. Differentiate between sex and gender.
2. How did the third wave of feminism differ from the earlier waves?
3. Write a note on 'écriture feminine'.
4. What are the tenets of postcolonial feminism?
5. What is the significance of the phrase 'and when we speak we are afraid our Words will not be heard nor welcomed'?
6. What is POCSO?
7. Write a note on Disability Studies.
8. How does Audre Lorde define survival in the context of the poem " A Litany for survival"?

**(5 × 2 = 10 Marks)**

P.T.O.



II Answer any **five** of the following questions in about **100** words

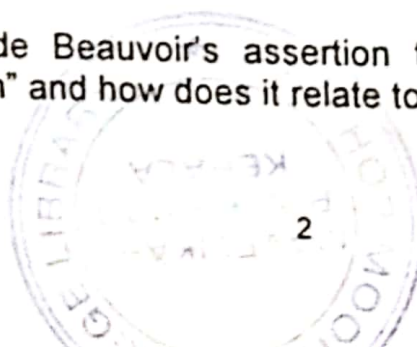
9. Examine how the novel, *When I Hit You* addresses societal attitudes towards domestic violence and gender roles?
10. Analyse the concept of "to-be-looked-at-ness" and its implications for the representation of women in cinema, according to Mulvey.
11. How does the poet address issues of violence and social injustice in the poem, "Tonight, in Oakland"?
12. How does Listen, Girl contribute to the larger discourse on feminism and women's rights in Indian literature?
13. What measures do the Vishaka Guidelines recommend for preventing and addressing sexual harassment within organizations?
14. How do men exercise control over women's productive labour within the patriarchal system, both within the household and in work?
15. Examine Butler's view of Intersectional feminism.
16. How does Simone de Beauvoir critique essentialist views of womanhood and femininity in *The Second Sex*?


(5 × 5 = 25 Marks)

III Answer any **two** of the following questions in about **300** words choosing one from each group.

Group A

17. How can we work towards dismantling patriarchal structures and promoting gender equality?
18. How have gender and queer theories contributed to expanding our understanding of identity beyond traditional binary frameworks?
19. Analyze Simone de Beauvoir's assertion that "one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman" and how does it relate to the construction of gender?



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### Group B

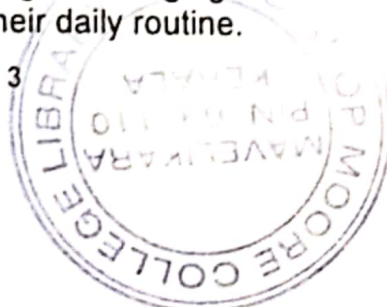
20. How does "Memoirs of a Namboodiri Woman" provide insights into the experiences and challenges faced by Namboodiri women within their cultural and societal context?
21. Attempt a historical analysis of how disability has been perceived and understood in the West.
22. In light of the recent increase of child sexual harassment cases and dowry-related deaths, critically examine the effectiveness of the POCSO Act and anti-dowry laws.

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

- IV Critically analyse and answer any one of the following question in about 150 words.
23. Analyse the concepts of sex, gender, and sexuality, and how do these concepts contribute to fostering diversity within society?
  24. Present the main arguments in the given passage in not more than two sentences and provide arguments as to why these arguments are relevant in society?

Many hijras drop out of primary school because of their experiences of discrimination (Aziz and Azhar, 2020). Bangladesh's hijra minority lives on the periphery of society. with no sociopolitical space to live a dignified life. Their plight stems from their lack of acknowledgment as separate gender human beings outside of the male-female gender binary. They are less likely to find a job in the formal labor market and more likely to live in informal settlements if they have not completed a tertiary degree, Hijra may choose to leave their families to avoid further social exclusion, or they may be forced to leave if their family members object to their lifestyle.

'Hijragiri' or 'badhai' is how most Hijra make a living (Khan et al., 2009). Greetings! Hijragiri, Badhai, or bazaar tola, refers to various behaviors, including collecting money in exchange for blessings, receiving funding from local retailers, and mugging travelers at traffic crossroads, railroad stations, and other public venues. Hijra relies heavily on 'badhai as a stream of income since they realize how fearful people are of being cursed by them and how much faith they have in their magical abilities. 'Hijragiri', a ritual that involves collecting money from shops in the marketplace and dancing and singing for a newborn baby boy in metropolitan areas, is now a part of their daily routine.



25. Use the following passage as a point of reference to discuss patriarchy and power in caste- gender permutations.

In April 2013, Human Rights Watch stated, on the basis of 2016 government data, that around 94.6 per cent of the rape accused were known to the victim as they were either close family or acquaintances. In 2016, there were 106 rapes every day in India. More than 30,000 rapes were reported in India every year, whereas the non-reporting of such crimes is very high owing to the social stigma attached to them.

The Brahminical patriarchy considers rape the violation of the purity of a woman's sexuality and imposes a social stigma on the victim rather than on the perpetrator. In fact, rape and other acts of sexual violence are one of the most under-reported crimes in India, considering the patriarchal values associated with women's sexuality and morality. On the basis of the NFHS 2015-16 data and NCRB data, it was derived that 99.1 per cent of cases of sexual violence go unreported in India as they involve a close relative of the victim. The sexual violence against women by close relatives shows how women's sexuality is controlled and punished accordingly by men.

(1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

