

## Assignment 1 2020

Q1. Re-visit Pandita Ramabai's text "A Testimony of Our Inexhaustible Treasure" to discuss how she could have dealt with her inadequate education differently.

Ans. Introduction: Women's position in 19<sup>th</sup> C  
 Women's education in 19<sup>th</sup> C  
 Feminist Historiography & Pandita Ramabai  
 Para 1 Summarise the text from education point of view.  
 Para 2 Education in scriptures alone did not equip her to earn a living  
 Para3 Comment on her becoming a Christian. What were the other options she could have explored?

## Class Test: 2020

Q.1 Celie in *Color Purple* writes her own identity. Discuss the process of her evolution identifying the traits that exhibit her strength of character/survival skill. (25)

Para	Topic	Content	Weightage
1	Introduction	Comment on womanism and that the novel is located in Georgia of 1930's	5
2	Erasure of identity	Abuse, suppression and silencing	5
3	Coping Mechanism	Think of things pleasant, make herself weak and submission/acceptance when you cannot fight	5
4	Path to recovery	Evolves herself – pants & God Willingness to change and learn	5
5	Conclusion	Bring out the reasons for her evolution, emotional and support she receives, along with the strength of her character.	5

Q2. Identify the lines and explain with reference to the context: (25)

An engine, an engine  
 Chuffing me off like a Jew.  
 A Jew to Dachau, Auschwitz, Belsen.

Ans.

Para	Topic	Content	Weightage
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1	Writer, poem and introduction	Sylvia Plath/Daddy Confessional and Electra complex	7
2	Explanation of the lines given	Referring to the memory of her father as oppressive/ as being on a train which is taking the Jews to the concentration camps.	5
3	Relevance of the lines to the poem	Why is the poet relating her father to the Jews	8
4	Analytical comment	Generalising her experience and father and husband are projected as oppressive patriarchs.	5

### Class Test Women Writers 2019

Time: 1 hr.

Max. Marks: 50

- Q1. The heroines in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, *Bliss* and *Draupadi* are all trapped in their bodies. How and why?
- Q2. The Epistolary novel *Color Purple* is about Celie writing herself into 'being' and carving an identity for herself. In the process she questions and subverts patriarchy, racism and the image of God. Discuss

Date of submission 27 September 2018

#### Assignment 1 Questions

Based on your readings of Kamla Bhasin's *What is Patriarchy and Feminism* answer the following questions

- Q1 What is the underlined ideology on which Patriarchy rests?
- Q2 What is the nature of control exercised by Patriarchy?
- Q3 How is Patriarchal control exercised in society?
- Q4 How has Engels explained the origin of Property?
- Q5 What explanation has Maria Mies given in her work "The Social Origins of the Sexual Division of Labour"?
- Q6 What is Feminism?
- A7 How has Capitalism impacted Feminism?
- Q8 Choosing to be a housewife, is it against the idea of feminism?
- Q9 How is motherhood perceived by feminists?
- A10 To whom is Feminism advantageous?

Question	Mark 1	Mark 2	Mark 3
Underlined	Men are superior to	+ women are men's	

ideology	women	property	
Nature of control	work/employment Sexuality/body Reproduction Property/Money (Any 2)	work/employment Sexuality/body Reproduction Property/Money (All)	
How is control exercised	Law/Family/Religion/Media (Any 2)	Law/Family/Religion/Media (All)	
Engles Origin of property?	Private property mentioned		Explained
Maria Mies division of labour	Men's production of tools of destruction/ violence		
Feminism?	Awareness of women's oppression and conscious effort to bring about a change. It is struggle against subordination	+ Struggle for control over one's life/Body/equality/freedom of choice	
Capitalism's Impact on feminism	Women lost control over domestic production/exploited in workplace	+ (women were played less)/economic control slipped into the hands of men/domestic work was considered unpaid and men's work as productive/ double yoke.	
Is choosing to be a housewife anti-feminist?	No	+ Feminism is about the ability/freedom of making a choice.	
Motherhood perceived?	They are not against motherhood, but they want the choice	Mother's love and selflessness is exaggerated	Parenting is not sex specific, men too can nurture children.
Feminism favours?	Both Sexes		Explained

**Assignment 2**  
**Eunice De Souza**

Paragraph	Point 1	Point 2	Marks
Introduction	Contextualise in the social time frame: Social fabric of India and specifically Goan Catholic society	Biographical details: Portuguese ancestry and her self as a Goan Catholic	4+4
Poem	Advise to Women Detached presentation of women's concerns, their lonely existence.	Bequest: Selflessness expected of women, confined by social norms	4+4
Comment	She is concerned about gender issues and writes about how social norms dictate women's life.	However, no solution is offered to the problem. Poet and persona at times are superimposed but only to present the gendered self and not to suggest a solution.	4+5

## Key to Class Test WW 2018

**Q** The heroines in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, *Bliss* and *Draupadi* are all trapped in

Trapped in their bodies	Yellow Wall Paper	Draupdi	Bliss
How	Post natal depression	Raped	Experiences bisexuality
Why	Doctor has	Tribal woman is	Unfulfilled

their bodies. How and why?

**A** Patriarchy has used women's body to control them physically and psychologically. Physical weakness of women forms the foundation for patriarchy on which they base their argument of domesticity for women. Psychologically they are convinced that the men in the family know what is best for them. Patriarchal control over women made them physically weak and mentally meek. Even the psychological problems arising out of physical control and confinement were diagnosed as gender specific. Denial of creativity is one form of control against which women have fought even at the peril of their sanity. 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by C.P. Gilman is one story which illustrated how denial of use of one's body and creativity can drive a woman to the state of hysteria. Heterosexuality is a strong pillar of Patriarchy that establishes family as the unit in which a woman should experience bliss as a wife and mother. Katherine Mansfield in her story 'Bliss' has portrayed the disillusionment with the stereotype of mother, wife and home and also explored the idea of homosexuality. Women's chastity and dignity is another trope exploited by patriarchy to keep women under control. Rape is the ultimate tool of punishment and fear in patriarchal hands but Mahashweta Devi subverts this tool and puts patriarchal authority on the receiving end.

	prescribed rest	wanted by police in the case of murder of Surja Sahoo	relationship with husband
	Denial of creativity	Ultimate tool of control	Attracted towards Ms. Fulton
	Path to sanity comes from madness	Subverts authority by walking out naked	The bubble of bliss has to be punctured before Bertha realises the futility of her life lived as per patriarchal norms.

Q Pain is an important theme in women writers' poetry. Discuss the different ways in which it is portrayed by Sylvia Plath, Eunice de Souza and Emily Dickinson.

A Women under patriarchy were denied a voice, as silence was imposed on them as a desired characteristic. Women poets' have expressed the pain of their existence and gender in their poetry. Plath reacts against the confinement of the self by referring to painful and violent images. The premature death of Plath's father gave her a troubled childhood that caused her to experience alienation from her surrounding and this pain is projected in her poem 'Daddy'. Emily Dickinson and Eunice de Souza portray the pain of 'otherness' and selflessness expected from women.

Daddy: You do not do, you do not do  
 Any more, black shoe  
 In which I have lived like a foot  
 For thirty years,

Discuss the poem from the point of view of universalising personal pain.

Bequest: Some recommend stern standards  
 others say float along  
 He says, take it as it comes,  
 meaning, of course, as he hands it out

Discuss the poem to bring out the idea that there is a difference in what is expected and what really is life.

I am a wife: is a poem that explains the pain of growing into a woman and control of church on ones life. Pain of male dominance.`14

Q Explain Pandita Ramabai's voyage into religion, both Hinduism and Christianity. What impact did it have on her life?

A The pitiable position of women in Indian society was one argument given by the Britishers to prove their superiority. Western influence and orientalism initiated a movement to reform women's status in Indian society. Many measures and debates took place to educate people against child marriage and sati. Pandita Ramabai was born in this social background. Her orthodox Brahmin father decided to educate his wife and daughters. Living on the outskirts of the city Ramabai's father educated his children in Hindu scriptures. After seeing the consequence of his elder daughter's child marriage, he did not make the mistake with his younger daughter, Ramabai escaped such a fate. For a large part of her life Ramabai lived a gypsy like life wandering with her father from place to place preaching Hindu scriptures. Ramabai could be considered privileged to have received education in an age where women were not given any education. But the kind of education she received did not equip her for to support her life. Her orthodox father did not allow his children to interact with non -Hindus, fearing such involvements would pollute their minds and customs. Her erudite status did earn her the title of Pandita but could not help her to improve her own or other women's status in life. Hindu scriptures disillusioned her because it denied women and Dalit's dignity in society. There was no forgiveness for them for their sins and doors of Heaven were open to them only if they unquestioningly surrendered themselves to the service of their husbands and master respectively. It was in this state of disillusionment that she came under the influence of Christianity. The Christian attitude of forgiveness and support rendered even to women who had gone astray. This attracted Ramabai to Christianity. She accepted Christianity and actively engaged herself in spreading the word of Christ. Encouraged by the missionary experience and zeal she dedicated her life to the upliftment of women by opening a sadan for the widows where they received training to live life with dignity.

Q Explain the salient arguments presented in *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft.

A Refer to the article indicated below:  
[University of South Florida Scholar Commons](#)

[Graduate Theses and Dissertations Graduate School](#)

2009

A vindication of the rights of woman: A reaction of the tension between conformity and rebellion in the life and times of Mary Wollstonecraft

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