

2022

ENGLISH

Paper : ENG-HE-6056

(Life Writing)

(Honours Elective)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

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

1. Answer any ten of the following as directed :

1×10=10

- (a) Who was Bernard mentioned in Confessions?
- (b) In which year was Rousseau's Confessions published?
- (c) Who was Reverend Howard Thomas?
- (d) What is the central theme of Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

- (e) Who is the narrator in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* ?
- (f) Which two books inspired Gandhi a lot during his childhood?
- (g) What made Gandhi ashamed of himself during his visit to South Africa?
- (h) What is the Urdu title of Ismat Chughtai's *A Life in Words : Memoirs* ?
- (i) Binodini Dasi was a pioneering figure in _____ theatre.

(Fill in the blank)

- (j) Name the narrator of *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.
- (k) What role was Binodini Dasi given in the play called *Beni-Sanhar* ?
- (l) In which language was *The Outcaste* originally written?
- (m) Which game did the boys of the narrator's caste play during the picnic as mentioned in *The Outcaste* ?

- (n) "Men and even women stared at us and laughed, and heckled us. I realised what a burden a hijra's daily life is." Name the speaker of these lines.

- (o) In which year was Richard Wright's *Black Boy* written?

2. Answer any five of the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) Write briefly about Rousseau's growing interest in reading during his childhood.
- (b) Comment on Duraisamy's experience at school.
- (c) Write a short note on Binodini Dasi as an actress.
- (d) Write briefly about the idea of racism as expressed in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- (e) Comment on Chughtai's participation in Janmashtami at Lalaji's house.
- (f) Write briefly about Gandhi's married life from your reading of *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

- (g) Elaborate on Limbale's childhood as depicted in *The Outcaste*.
- (h) Give a short introduction of A. Revathi.

3. Answer any four of the following questions :

5×4=20

- (a) Write a short note on the character of M. Lambercier.
- (b) Critically comment on the use of humour in the prescribed chapter of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- (c) Write briefly about Gandhi's experience of school life as narrated in *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.
- (d) Write a short note on the condition of marginalized women in the late nineteenth century Bengal from your reading of *My Story and Life as an Actress*.
- (e) Elaborate on the idea of trans-sexuality from your reading of Revathi's *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.
- (f) How does Chughtai explore female sexuality, class conflict and middle class morality in her memoir, *A Life in Words : Memoirs* ?

- (g) From your reading of *The Outcaste*, critically comment on the caste discrimination prevalent in the narrator's school.

- (h) Describe how Richard Wright was treated in an orphanage during his childhood.

4. Answer any four of the following questions :

10×4=40

- (a) "With equal freedom and veracity have I related what was laudable or wicked, I have concealed no crimes, added no virtues; and if I have sometimes introduced superfluous ornament, it was merely to occupy a void occasioned by defect of memory." Do you think Rousseau's *Confessions* presents a true picture of the writer? Give a reasoned answer.
- (b) Discuss how Maya Angelou presents the foibles of the institutional church in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
- (c) Consider Maya Angelou as an African-American feminist writer with special reference to her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

(d) Comment on Gandhi's portrait as revealed in the prescribed sections of his book, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

(e) What aspects of Ismat Chughtai's life are revealed in the prescribed chapter of her book, *A Life in Words : Memoirs*? Discuss.

(f) Do you think the socio-cultural history of the nineteenth century Bengal can be rewritten on the basis of Binodini Dasi's *My Story and Life as an Actress*? Give a reasoned answer.

(g) What impression do you form of Binodini Dasi's personality from her book, *My Story and Life as an Actress*? Discuss.

(h) Discuss how Revathi expresses the concerns of Indian trans-women known as 'hijra' in *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*.

(i) In his autobiography, *Black Boy*, Wright depicts themes of poverty, hunger and racism that beset the Blacks in America. Discuss with textual evidence.

(j) Limbale's autobiographical novel, *The Outcaste* exposes violence and discrimination meted out to Dalit community. Substantiate your argument with textual evidence.
