



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2025-2026

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2021/M.A.(ENG)-2023/M.A.(ENG)-2024

Course Name – Literature and Gender

Course Code - MELS401

(Semester IV)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

(i) Recall the publication year of A Room of One's Own.

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| a) 1990 | b) 1929 |
| c) 1854 | d) 1910 |

(ii) From your reading of Woolf's A Room of One's Own, recall the name of the fictionalized author-surrogate.

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| a) Mary Beton | b) Mary Carmichael |
| c) Mary Seton | d) Mary Beton, Mary Seton, Mary Carmichael
or any name that one preferred for her
identity is irrelevant |

(iii) Write the name of Coventry Patmore's wife, for whom "The Angel in the House" was written.

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| a) Lucy | b) Emily |
| c) Julia | d) None of these. |

(iv) Recall the alternate title of Sappho's "Fragment 94."

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|------------------------|----------------------|
| a) Death Wish | b) Ode to Aphrodite |
| c) Sappho's Confession | d) Desire and Memory |

(v) Examine the given options and state which one applies to Woolf's A Room of One's Own.

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| a) It is a partly-fictionalized narrative | b) It has a historical document |
| c) It is a political debate | d) None of these |

(vi) Examine which statement best explains the idea of the androgynous mind.

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| a) An androgynous mind is at work when a writer writes from a gender conscious perspective | b) The androgynous mind is non-binary, inclusive, resonant and porous. It is naturally creative and undivided. |
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- c) Any creative mind can be called an androgynous mind
- (vii) Determine which of the following according to Woolf accounts for the fact that women are more likely to write novels than poetry.
- a) Women must contend with frequent interruptions because they are so often deprived of a room of their own in which to write.
- b) Novels are easier to write compared to poems.
- c) Women are less creative than men.
- d) All of these.
- (viii) Explain why Woolf draws our attention to the library shelves.
- a) Woolf draws our attention to the library shelves to show how women authors have been absent in literature and history.
- b) Woolf draws our attention to the library shelves to show the declining state of literacy.
- c) Woolf draws our attention to the library shelves to show that there are more women novelists than women poets.
- d) None of these.
- (ix) Relate how Woolf responded to the poem 'The Angel in the House'.
- a) She praised it for its accurate depiction of the woman's lifestyle in the 19th century
- b) She praised it for promoting the domestic value of purity
- c) women were assumed to make better teachers of young children
- d) She ridiculed the 'angel' and satirised the ideal of femininity depicted in the poem
- (x) Explain the phrase 'Cult of Domesticity'.
- a) The term was used by historians to describe the domestic chores performed by working women of the 19th century
- b) The term was used by historians to describe the prevailing value system among the upper and middle classes during the 19th century according to which 'true women' were supposed to possess four virtues: piety, purity, domesticity, and submissiveness.
- c) The term was used by historians to describe the ideal of femininity among the black, working class, and immigrant women of the 19th century
- d) The term was used by historians to describe the domestic responsibilities of men in the 19th century
- (xi) Analyze the following statements and state which is true with close reference to 'Black Feminism'.
- a) Slavery is the seedbed of Black feminism.
- b) Black women did not have an identity inside or outside of Slavery as a result of patriarchy and racism.
- c) Black women were considered property and not people.
- d) All of these.
- (xii) Infer the year of publication of "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects" by Mary Wollstonecraft.
- a) 1772
- b) 1792
- c) 1717
- d) 1854
- (xiii) Mary Wollstonecraft argued the perspective of a statesman regarding women's education. State the name of the statesman.
- a) Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord
- b) Joseph Fouché
- c) Cardinal Richelieu
- d) All of these
- (xiv) Based on your understanding of "The Second Sex", examine the following statements and decide which one is true.
- a) Those rare women who refuse to be passive or silent are called unattractive and unfeminine.
- b) An irreconcilable contradiction exists between a woman's vocation as a human and her 'destiny' as a female.

- c) Both 1 and 2 are correct. d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct.
- (xv) Choose the correct option with reference to "The Second Sex".
- a) A man's sex is invisible but a woman's sex takes the center stage of her identity. b) The myth of maternity defines women by their reproductive capacity and thus rob them of their individuality.
- c) Social conditioning leaves women vulnerable and easy victims of patriarchy. d) All of these.

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)
(Answer any Five from the following)

3 x 5=15

2. Infer how cinema becomes an important space for the representation of gender fluidity. (3)
3. Illustrate how do you think the usage of "queer" as an umbrella term may encourage communitarian solidarity. (3)
4. Examine the concept of "Black Feminism". (3)
5. Assess Butler's concept of gender performativity. (3)
6. Define the concept of "Cult of Domesticity". (3)

OR

In "The Second Sex" Beauvoir critiques the myth of femininity. Would you agree? Justify your answer. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)
(Answer any Six from the following)

5 x 6=30

7. Determine how does Kate Millett critique the heroines of Lawrence and his representation in Sexual Politics. (5)
8. Apply your knowledge of Sexual Politics and discuss her criticism of Henry Miller, Norman Mailer and Jean Genet. (5)
9. Infer the representation of 'queer' in the movie 'Chitrangada'. (5)
10. Analyze the character of Madhu in "Nagarkirtan". (5)
11. Evaluate the line from Sexual Politics: "Literature is not innocent: it reflects and enforces sexual politics." (5)
12. Critically infer Partha's character in the film Chitrangada: The Crowning Wish. (5)

OR

Infer how does Simone de Beauvoir employ the concept of the master-slave relationship to explain women's oppression in The Second Sex. (5)

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