2023

ENGLISH

(Honours Elective)

Paper : ENG-HE-6056

(Life Writing)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

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Boko, Kamrup

1. Answer the following questions : 1×10=10

(a) In which year was Rousseau born?

(b) Who was Bailey in Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

(c) What made Gandhi ashamed of himself during his visit to South Africa?

(d) What was the address of Binodini's grandmother's house in Calcutta that later came to her possession?

(e) What role did Binodini play in *Sadhabar Ekadashi* when it was staged at Lahore?

(f) In Which language was Ismat Chughtai's *A Life in Words : Memoirs* originally written?

(g) Who is Doraisamy in *The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story*?

(h) Give the Marathi title of Limbale's autobiography, *The Outcaste*.

(i) Name the game played by the Wani and Brahmin boys during the picnic.

(j) Where do Richard and his family move to after the house burns down?

2. Answer the following questions : 2×5=10

(a) Mention the names of any two books that Rousseau read during his childhood.

(b) Comment on Gandhi's views on physical education as revealed in his autobiography, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

(c) What kind of treatment is meted out to Revathi at school?

(d) Give a short introduction of Limbale.

(e) Write a note on the portrayal of family in Richard Wright's *Black Boy*.

3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) Write briefly about Rousseau's depiction of his mother's character in his autobiography, *Confessions*.

(b) What aspects of Reverend Howard Thomas's personality are revealed in *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

(c) Critically comment on Gandhi's candid revelations about his marriage.

(d) Comment on Chughtai's religious beliefs as expressed in his autobiography, *A Life in Words : Memoirs*.

(e) Comment on the significance of the title of *The Outcaste*.

(f) Describe the circumstances that led to the burning of Wright's house.

4. Answer the following questions : 10×4=40

(a) Write an essay on Rousseau's prose style as revealed in the prescribed chapter of his autobiography, *Confessions*.

Or

Critically comment on Maya Angelou's treatment of the themes of racism, gender and identity in her autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

(b) Would you consider Gandhi's autobiography as an appropriate example of the genre of life writing? Substantiate your views with textual evidence.

Or

Critically comment on Chughtai's childhood beliefs about religion and gender as revealed in her autobiography, *A Life in Words : Memoirs.*

(c) Write an essay on Binodini Dasi's contribution to the 19th century Bengali theatre from your reading of her autobiography, *My Story and My Life as an Actress.*

Or

The Truth about Me : A Hijra Life Story shows that the shaping of gender identities is always through a process of violence. Discuss.

(d) Richard Wright's autobiography, *Black Boy* is a poignant and disturbing record of social injustice and human suffering. Discuss with textual evidence.

Or

Do you agree with the view that Dalit autobiographies narrate sagas of dispossession and resistance? Discuss with reference to Limbale's autobiographical novel, *The Outcaste.*

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