2024

ENGLISH

(Regular Generic)

Paper : ENG–RG–5016

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(Contemporary India : Women and Empowerment)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

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

(a) Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar led the campaign to legalise widow remarriage.

(Write True or False)

(b) What is the full form of POSH in the POSH Act?

(c) Who is the central character in Mahashweta Devi's *Mother of 1084*?

(d) Which wave of feminism deals primarily with the issue of suffrage?

(e) _____ is the founder of the Arya Samaj.

(Fill in the blank)

(f) Which Act of 1856 attempted to secure the financial position of widows?

(g) What is a Khap Panchayat?

(h) Kamala Das's *The Old Playhouse* is a novel on Indian life during the time of British imperialism.

(Write True or False)

(i) What was the work by Mary Wollstonecraft which raised voice in favour of women's rights?

(j) Which Article of the Indian Constitution ensures that at least one-third of the total seats in Panchayats and Municipalities are reserved for women?

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

(a) What is the difference between sex and gender?

(b) Who was the first women legislator of India? When and where was she appointed?

(c) What do you think is the chief reason for overwhelming participation of women in the Gandhian form of national struggle?

(d) What is the POCSO Act and when was it passed?

(e) What is the difference between female foeticide and female infanticide?

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

(a) What is the significance of the title, *The Old Playhouse* by Kamala Das?

(b) What were the contributions made by Pandita Ramabai towards women's education and women's rights?

(c) Write a short note on the Shah Bano case of 1985.

(d) What is the role of family in the social construction of gender?

(e) When and where did the All India Women's Conference first take place? What was its contribution towards promoting women's rights?

(f) Illustrate the role of Medha Patkar in the Narmoda Bachao Andolan.

4. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 10×4=40

(a) Trace a few ideas and writings that inspired and provided the foundation for the women's movement in modern times.

(b) How does Krishna Sobti's *Zindaginama* bring to life Punjab during the British era?

(c) What is the Sati (Prevention) Act of 1987? What are its provisions? Describe the circumstances which led to the passing of this Act.

(d) Throw light on the nature of women's participation in the National Movement of India.

(e) Mahashweta Devi's *Mother of 1084* is a story of loss and remorse. Substantiate through a character appraisal of the central character.

(f) Evaluate the origin and achievements of the nineteenth century socio-religious reform movement within colonial India.

(g) What is the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955? What is its main purpose? Mention the provisions of the Act.

(h) What was the Chipko Movement? What was its outcome? What role did women play in it?

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