

TDC Odd Semester Exam., 2020
held in July, 2021

ENGLISH

(Honours)

(5th Semester)

Course No. : ENGH-502

Full Marks : 50

Pass Marks : 17

Time : 2 hours

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

Candidates have to answer *either* from Option—A
or from Option—B

OPTION—A

Course No. : ENGH-502 (A)

(**New Literatures in English**)

UNIT—I

1. Answer any *two* of the following : 15×2=30
- (a) Comment on the major thematic concerns of Margaret Atwood's poetry with special reference to the poems prescribed in your syllabus.

- (b) Write a note on the use of symbols and images in A. D. Hope's poetry with reference to the poems in your course.
- (c) Write a critical appreciation of A. D. Hope's *Hay Fever*.
- (d) "Ruins of a Great House presents the enduring effect of the colonial rule even after freedom." Discuss.

UNIT—II

2. Answer any *one* of the following : 15
- (a) Examine the character of Kongi in Wole Soyinka's *Kongi's Harvest*.
- (b) Discuss the major theme/themes of Wole Soyinka's play, *Kongi's Harvest*.
3. Write a short note on any *one* of the following : 5
- (a) Character sketch of the Organizing Secretary
- (b) Significance of the term 'harvest' in *Kongi's Harvest*

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OPTION—B

Course No. : ENGH-502 (B)

(Literary Terminology and Critical Appreciation)

1. Write short notes on any *five* of the following : 5×5=25
- (a) Pathetic Fallacy
 - (b) Deus ex machina
 - (c) Allusion
 - (d) Dramatic Irony
 - (e) Bathos
 - (f) Antithesis
 - (g) Elegy
 - (h) Parable
 - (i) Metonymy
 - (j) Extended Metaphor

2. (a) Write a critical appreciation of the following prose piece : 25
- Throughout history and through a cross-section of cultures, women have transformed their appearance to conform to a beauty ideal. Ancient Chinese aristocrats bound their feet as a show of femininity; American and European women in the 1800s cinched in their waists so tightly, some suffered

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internal damage; in some African cultures women continue to wear plates in their lower lips, continually stretching the skin to receive plates of larger size. The North American ideal of beauty has continually focussed on women's bodies : the tiny waist of the Victorian period, the boyish figure in vogue during the 1920's 'flapper era', and the voluptuous curves that were the measures of beauty between the 1930s and 1950s.

In attempting to mould their appearance to meet the current ideal, numerous women are literally starving themselves to death. According to Comerici, the incidence of eating disorders, such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia, has "doubled during the last two decades". This increase is no longer limited to women in their teens and twenties, but is increasingly diagnosed in female and male patients in their thirties and forties. Comerici adds, "No doubt, the current socio-cultural emphasis on thinness and physical fitness as a symbol of beauty and success has contributed to this age distribution."

Feelings about body are closely related to a woman's sense of self. Orbach has stated that the "body is perceived as acceptable or unacceptable, providing a foundation for self-concept". Women with perfectly normal bodies see themselves as being heavy; so that the definition of "normal" becomes inaccurate and this perceived normalcy is represented by a very small percentage of women. It follows that if body image is so closely linked to self-image, it is important for women to learn to feel comfortable with the body they live in, despite any "imperfections". As women are consistently exposed to these feminine forms through both print and television, it becomes difficult to distinguish what is normal, and even more difficult not to compare themselves to this form.

Our preoccupation with appearance affects much more than the image that is presented on the outside. Feelings toward our own appearance affect the choices we make and the goals we pursue; "more than ever, it seems we are constricted by beauty standards" in Freedman's words. The recent emphasis on fitness, youth, beauty and thinness has caused many women to try harder

than ever to attain the current body ideal. The tremendous increase in plastic surgery operations, such as liposuction, breast implants, tummy tucks, and face-lifts attest to the extreme adjustments that many women feel they must make in order to attain the body ideal, in turn making positive adjustments to their own self-esteem.

Perhaps, a woman's ability to control her own body size and weight can be seen as a metaphor, a substitution for control that may be lacking in other areas of her life. While women continue to struggle for equality on an economic scale and within their relationships, they still maintain control over their own bodies. It is important that women begin to accept themselves for who they are, regardless of their body type, and to feel comfortable with the body they live in. Orbach warns women will not be setting themselves up for failure if they continue to pursue the "elusive, eternally youthful body beautiful". It is important to remember that eating disorders in males, as well as in females, can be treated, and people of both genders do recover. Almost always, however, professional help is required.

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Or

- (b) Write a critical appreciation of the following poem : 25

Fingers adoring fingers!
Her soft palm seeking shelter forever—
Let her blood flow into his strong veins
as a moonlit river

Love weakens them.
Let those raindrops turn into dazzling
drops tears.

Time stops.
Yet they move on—
The majestic union will glorify the
collapsing century's hackneyed year!

Hands speak to hands.
Veins and blood are adorable forever.

Hands defy the centre,
But the decentred pores will never
betray the lost lover.

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