

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* ?

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22A/975

- (n) "Men and even women stared at us and laughed, and heckled ~~my~~ *my* life is." Name a burden a hijra's *lines* the speaker of these *Richard Wright's* *Black Boy* written? $2 \times 5 = 10$
- 2. Answer any five of the following questions :
- (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 Janmashami at Lalaji's house.
- (f) Write briefly about Gandhi's married life from your reading of *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

22A/975

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(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 :
5x4=20

(a) Write a short note on the character of M. Lambertier.

(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* ?

22A/975

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(g) From your reading on the caste the critically comment prevalent in the narrator's school. Wright was

(h) Describe how Richard treated in an orphanage during his childhood. 10x4=40

4. Answer any four of the following questions :
10x4=40

(a) "With equal freedom and veracity have I related what was laudable or wicked, I have concealed no crimes, sometimes virtues; and if I have ornament, it 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*.

22A/975

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(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*.

22A/975

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

(ii) Limbale's autobiographical violence to your community. Substantiate argument with textual evidence.

22A—2000/975

3 (Sem-6/CBCS) ENG HE