

B.A. (Honours) Examination, 2017
Semester-VI
English
Course – H 14 (b) (Optional)
(Women Novelists of the 19th and the 20th Century)

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are of equal value.

Answer question no. **1** and **any three** others taking at least **one** question from each group.

1. a) Why do you think it is important to study women novelists as a separate category? Substantiate your answer.

or

- b) Comment critically on Elaine Showalter's attempts to historicize women novelists as belonging to the three phases of 'feminine' 'feminist' and 'female'.

Group-A

2. Can *The Mill on the Floss* be regarded as a female bildungsroman? Justify your answer.
3. *Jane Eyre* has been read both as a romance and an early feminist text. Is there a contradiction between the two readings? Comment critically.
4. Comment on the representation of girlhood in *The Mill on the Floss* and *Jane Eyre*.

Group-B

5. In what sense is Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* a 'queer' text? Comment critically.
 6. The representation of Stephen in *The Well of Loneliness* draws heavily upon contemporary discourses of gender and sexuality. Would you agree? Justify your answer.
 7. Is it possible to regard *Orlando* or *The Well of Loneliness* as feminist texts? Comment critically. You can also respond by taking both texts into account.
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