2024

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

1. Answer the following questions:

1×10=10

- (a) What role did Binodini play in Sadhabar Ekadashi when it was staged at Lahore?
- (b) Who is the narrator of The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story?
- (c) Who was Bailey in Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings?
- (d) What made Gandhi ashamed of himself during his visit of South Africa?
- (e) Write the Marathi title of Limbale's autobiography, The Outcaste.

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(Turn Over)

- (g) Who is Doraisamy in The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story?
- (h) In which year was Richard Wright's Black Boy written?
- (i) Who was Bernard mentioned in Confessions?
- (j) Write the name of the game played by the boys of the narrator's caste during the picnic as mentioned in The Outcaste.
- 2. Answer the following questions:
- (a) What kind of treatment is meted out to Revathi at school?
- (b) Comment on the idea of racism as expressed in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
- (c) How is the family in Richard Wright's Black Boy portrayed?
- (d) Comment on Chughtai's participation in Janmashtami at Lataji's house.
- (e) Discuss briefly about Gandhi's married life from your reading of The Story of My Experiments with Truth.

- **3.** Answer any *four* of the following questions: 5×4=20
- (a) Discuss the significance of the title of The Outcaste.
- (b) Write a note about trans-sexuality from your reading of Revathi's The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story.
- (c) Write a note on Rousseau's depiction of his mother's character in his autobiography, Confessions.
- (d) How is the condition of marginalized women in the late nineteenth century Bengal expressed in My Story and My Life as an Actress?
- (e) Critically comment on Gandhi's candid revelations about his marriage.
- (f) Write a note on the character of M. Lambercier.
- **4.** Answer any four of the following questions:

10×4=40

(a) Critically examine Gandhi's autobiography as an appropriate example of the genre of life writing. Substantiate your answer with textual reference.

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- (b) Discuss how Richard Wright depicts the themes of poverty, hunger and racism in his autobiography, Black Boy.
- (c) Elaborate the themes of racism, gender and identity in Maya Angelou's autobiography, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
- (d) Comment on Gandhi's portrait as revealed in the prescribed sections of his book, The Story of My Experiments with Truth.
- (e) The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story shows that the shaping of gender identities is always through a process of violence. Discuss.
- (f) Discuss Binodini Dasi's personality from her book, My Story and My Life as an Actress.
- (g) Discuss how the sagas of dispossession and resistance are narrated in Limbale's autobiographical novel, The Outcaste.
- (h) Write a note on the theme of institutional Church in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.
