Programme: BA English (Honours)
Course Code: BEGC-111/2026-27
Max. Marks: 100

This assignment is split up into three sections: A, B and C.
Attempt all the questions.

Section A

1. Explain with reference to the context any four of the following (in 100-150 words): 4×5=20

(a) The Grieved – are many – I am told –
There is the various Cause –
Death – is but one – and comes but once –
And only nails the eyes –

(b) …I am sinner,
I am saint. I am the beloved and the
Betrayed. I have no joys which are not yours, no
Aches which are not yours. I too call myself I.

(c) See how the letters move
in the eyes of the mind,
then leap over, back to the wall
from the page of Chaitanya Bhagavata

(d) A full plate, deliciously full.
Places to go, things to do, morning and evening.
Neatly ironed clothes. A nicely furnished home.

(e) My nights passed reciting holy verses for you.
If like Krishna you wish and change your guises,
If that Habba Khatoon decides and leaves you midway, what
if she too feels hate, she is not to be slayed.

Section B

2. How did Pandita Ramabai's early life experiences shape her journey as a social reformer? Elaborate. 10
3. Critically evaluate Mary Wollstonecraft's views on female education. 10
4. Analyse the transformation of the wallpaper throughout 'The Yellow Wallpaper'. How does the narrator's changing perception of the patterns mirror her own mental state? 10
5. How does Virginia Woolf's 'The Legacy' reflect her concerns regarding marriage and the "Hidden" lives of women in the early twentieth century? Discuss. 10

Section C

6. Why is it important to rewrite historical and mythological narratives from women's

perspectives? Critically discuss with reference to the works of Nabaneeta Deb Sen, Lakshmi Kannan, and Naseem Shafaie. 20

7. Critically examine the portrayal of women characters in *Sunlight on a Broken Column*. 20

1. Explain with reference to the context any four of the following (in 100-150 words): 4×5=20

(a) The Grieved – are many – I am told –
There is the various Cause –
Death – is but one – and comes but once –
And only nails the eyes –

Answer

These lines are from Emily Dickinson's poem “I measure every Grief I meet.” The speaker studies other people's suffering because she wishes to understand the size and nature of her own grief. She observes that people suffer for many reasons, not merely because someone has died. The phrase “various Cause” therefore expands the meaning of grief to include loneliness, disappointment, rejection and inward pain. Death is described as an event that “comes but once” and “nails the eyes,” a startling expression suggesting the final closing of the eyes. Yet emotional wounds can continue throughout life, unlike the single event of death. Dickinson's dashes and broken rhythm reproduce the speaker's hesitant search for certainty. The passage finally presents sorrow as both deeply personal and a shared human experience, while questioning the assumption that death is its only serious source.

(b) …I am sinner,
I am saint. I am the beloved and the
Betrayed. I have no joys which are not yours, no
Aches which are not yours. I too call myself I.

Answer

The extract is from Kamala Das's poem “An Introduction,” in which a woman insists on her right to describe herself in her own language and on her own terms. The opposite labels “sinner” and “saint,” and “beloved” and “betrayed,” show that a woman's identity cannot be reduced to a single moral category. The speaker has experienced desire, tenderness and suffering, just as others have. By declaring that her joys and aches belong to the common human world, she refuses to be treated as an abnormal or lesser being. The repeated first-person pronoun becomes an act of self-assertion against social demands that women remain modest, obedient and silent. The poem also challenges the judgement directed at women's sexuality. These lines suggest that a woman's voice is neither shameful nor borrowed: she possesses the same complicated humanity and the same right to say “I” as any man.