

(c) What does Binodini's life story reveal about the intersection of gender, art and society in colonial India?

(d) "I believe that no human being ever possessed less vanity than myself. Now and again, by fits and starts, I arrived at sublime ideas, presently fall again into my original languor. To be beloved by everyone who knew me was my most ardent wish." Do you believe that such sweeping claims made by Rousseau throughout *Confessions* place him on a pedestal above all others? Give a reasoned answer.

(e) Describe how Richard's actions depicted in Chapter 1 of *Black Boy* reveal a pattern of unpredictable behaviour.

(f) Discuss the impact of Gandhi's early childhood experiences on his moral and ethical beliefs.

(g) Examine the portrayal of systemic discrimination in educational institutions as experienced by Limbale. How does this reflect the broader societal attitudes towards Dalits during that period?

(h) Write a note on Ismat Chughtai's early experiences with gender discrimination, as depicted in Chapter 1 of her memoir.

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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 as directed : $1 \times 10 = 10$

- Where does Richard's family move after his father abandons them?
- What was Revathi's birth name?
- Why did Marguerite and Bailey hate Rev. Howard Thomas?
- At what age did Binodini start her acting career?
- What is the original Urdu title of Ismat Chughtai's *A Life in Words : Memoirs*?
- Which book and picture left an indelible mark on the young Gandhi?

(2)

- (g) How old is Richard when he becomes a drunkard?
- (h) Which community does Sharankumar Limbale belong to?
- (i) Why did Rousseau's father leave Geneva?
- (j) Who translated *The Truth About Me : A Hijra Life Story* from Tamil into English?

2. Answer the following questions : $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) Why was Rousseau's *Confessions* considered scandalous at the time?
- (b) How did Richard kill the kitten? What punishment did he get for doing it?
- (c) What is the role of the Guru and Chela in the Hijra community?
- (d) What impact did the story of Raja Harishchandra have on Gandhi?
- (e) How did Chugtai respond to the purdah system she witnessed during her upbringing?

3. Answer any four of the following : $5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) Briefly describe the episode at the Church when Sister Monroe 'got the spirit'.

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(Continued)

(3)

- (b) Describe Richard's relationship with his mother based on your reading of the first chapter of *Black Boy*.
- (c) Comment briefly on the custom of adoption into the Hijra community as portrayed in *The Truth About Me : A Hijra Life Story*.
- (d) Write briefly about Gandhi's experience of school life as narrated in *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.
- (e) How does Chugtai use personal anecdotes to critique broader societal norms and practices?
- (f) Describe the significance of the title, *The Outcaste* in the context of Limbale's life.

4. Answer any four of the following : $10 \times 4 = 40$

- (a) Discuss the significance of Revathi's *The Truth About Me : A Hijra Life Story* in bringing visibility to the Hijra community.
- (b) How does Maya Angelou use humour and satire in the prescribed chapter of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* to describe Rev. Howard Thomas? Provide examples.

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(Turn Over)