

N.B. 1. Answer all 4 questions.

2. All questions carry equal marks.

1. a) “Rather than attempting to define masculinity as an object (a natural character type, a behavioural average, a norm), we need to focus on the processes and relationships through which men [and women] conduct gendered lives.” In light of this, discuss Connell’s thesis of the hierarchy of masculinities.

OR

b) How has Queer Theory radically altered the manner in which we understand gender and, consequently, read literary texts? Give suitable examples.

2. a) Discuss how, although the narrative of Morrison’s *Paradise* centres on the Ruby township ruled by men, the novel relates its true story primarily through women.

OR

b) It is through the notion of ‘paradise’ that Morrison interrogates America’s foundational myths, revealing them to be rigid and exclusionary. Elaborate.

3. a) Soueif’s *Map of Love* has been called a hybrid text marked by ‘textual polyphony’ as its female narrator struggles to reconstruct both personal lives and historical events. Comment.

OR

b) Discuss Soueif’s *Map of Love* as a contemporary feminist reappraisal of the Victorian female traveller in the context of empire.

4. a) How does Mahasweta’s “*Hunt*” represent the complexities of gendered subaltern resistance? Substantiate your answer with suitable textual references.

OR

b) Critically comment on the short story “*Mozail*” in light of the observation that “*Manto* prompts the reader to interrogate the meaning assigned to male (and female) bodies within the communal riot.”
