

QP CODE

H2047

Enrollment Number:

Name:

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 2026

Fourth Semester

M.A. Philosophy

M23PH05DE – Feminist Philosophy

(2023 July admissions)

Time: 3 Hours

Max Marks: 70

Section A

Answer any ten of the following questions in a word or sentence each. Each question carries 1 mark.

1. State the single demand that became the central political focus of first-wave feminism.
2. Which philosopher influenced Iris Marion Young's concept of lived body?
3. Identify the psychoanalytic theorist, who developed the key concepts, 'Imaginary' and 'Symbolic' orders.
4. Name the author of the book *Beyond God the Father*.
5. State the idea that gender identity is enacted through repeated behaviours.
6. Identify the *difference feminist*, who critiqued the concept of 'phallogocentrism'?
7. State the dominant political ideology that shaped the first-wave feminist campaigns for legal rights.
8. Name the major Simone de Beauvoir text that critiques the philosophical tradition for its silence on women.
9. State the central ethical idea at the core of Nel Noddings' care-ethics framework.
10. Give Kristeva's term for *something that feels disturbing or rejected*.
11. Donna Haraway is famous for which *post humanist* feminist work ?
12. What term does Lacan use to describe the absent signifier associated with femininity?
13. Name the author of *The Book of the City of Ladies*, a medieval defence of women's intellectual capacities.
14. Give the term Irigaray uses for repeating patriarchal ideas only to expose them.
15. What is the term Spivak uses for those whose voices are historically muted in power structures?

(1X10=10)

Section B

Answer any five of the following questions in two or three sentences each. Each question carries 2 marks.

16. Briefly explain the feminist critique of Rousseau's ideas on women's education in *Emile*.
17. What is Postmodern Feminism? State one of its main concerns.

18. What is the significance of the distinction between 'Sex' and 'Gender' in the context of dismantling patriarchy?
19. Define *Misogyny* and provide one example of how it manifests in the public sphere.
20. In the context of Psychoanalytic Feminism, what is the 'Pre-Oedipal phase'?
21. Write a short note on Cultural Feminism.
22. What is the meaning of 'Be-ing' in Mary Daly's philosophy?
23. Mention two key arguments put forth by J.S. Mill and Harriet Taylor in *The Subjection of Women*.
24. What is the central idea of Julia Kristeva's *Semanalysis*?
25. How does Simone de Beauvoir define 'immanence' for women?

(2X5=10)

Section C

Answer any five of the following questions in a paragraph each. Each question carries 4 marks.

26. Discuss the key features and main focus of the First Wave of Feminism.
27. Write a short note on Radical Feminism and discuss its core demand for societal restructuring.
28. Explain the Liberal Feminist argument for women's equality based on reason, with reference to Enlightenment ideals.
29. Discuss the main features of Luce Irigaray's critique of phallogocentrism.
30. Examine the concepts of 'Imaginary' and 'Symbolic' orders in Lacanian thought and their relevance to the construction of sexual difference.
31. How does Mary Wollstonecraft critique Rousseau's idealization of female domesticity?
32. Elaborate the notion of "hierarchical binary oppositions of gender" as a structural critique in feminist philosophy.
33. Describe the main contributions of Carol Gilligan to Care Ethics and how her work challenged traditional moral theories.

(4X5=20)

Section D

Answer any three of the following questions in two pages each. Each question carries 10 marks.

34. Provide a critical overview of the historical development of feminist thought from the Medieval era to the Enlightenment, leading to First-Wave feminism.
35. Analyse how Beauvoir uses existentialist ideas, such as freedom and facticity, to explain women's oppression in *The Second Sex*.
36. Critically assess Freud's account of sex formation and evaluate Juliet Mitchell's effort to reinterpret psychoanalysis for feminism.

QP CODE

H2047

37. Outline the main principles of Socialist Feminism, and show how it diverges from Liberal and Radical feminism.
38. Explain *Intersectionality*, and discuss its role in extending feminist inquiry beyond women's issues, especially regarding race, class, and sexuality.
39. Write a critical essay on how *Difference Feminism* in Luce Irigaray's writings challenges the male-centred philosophical tradition.

(10X3=30)