

**ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27**  
**V SEMESTER OPTIONAL ENGLISH**  
**MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION: AUGUST 2019**  
**OE: 5115 Optional English Literature V: The Sacred and the Profane**

**TIME: 1 Hour**

**Max marks: 30**

**This paper contains THREE printed pages.**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**1. You may use a dictionary**

**I. Read the following and answer the question set on it**

**A Meditation on a Penitent Sinner (1560)**

**Anne Locke (1530-1590)**

Haue mercie, Lord, haue mercie: for I know  
How muche I nede thy mercie in this case.  
The horror of my gilt doth dayly growe,  
And growing weares my feble hope of grace.  
I fele and suffer in my thrall'd brest  
Secret remorse and gnawing of my hart.  
I fele my sinne, my sinne that hath opprest  
My soule with sorrow and surmounting smart.  
Drawe me to mercie: for so oft as I  
Presume to mercy to direct my sight,  
My Chaos and my heape of sinne doth lie,  
Betwene me and thy mercies shining light.  
What euer way I gaze about for grace,  
My filth and fault are euer in my face.

**I.A. Answer any ONE of the following in about 250 words (1x15=15)**

- 1) Carefully read the poem. What according to you is the woman poet actually appealing for and to whom? Comment on how she perceives herself and explain what can be assumed about the dominant notions about women of that time.
- 2) From your reading of women's poetry in Class (Amelia Lanier in particular) and Anne Locke (cited above), which of two poets do you resonate with and why? Argue your point of view with appropriate evidence from the texts you are aware of.

**II. Read the following poem and answer the questions set on it:**

WHEN I consider how my light is spent  
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide,  
And that one Talent which is death to hide  
Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent  
To serve therewith my Maker, and present 5  
My true account, lest He returning chide,  
"Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?"  
I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent

That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need  
Either man's work or his own gifts. Who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly: thousands at his bidding speed,  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait

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**II.A. Answer ALL the following questions in THREE sentences each (3x5=15)**

- 3) What connection can you establish between "how my light is spent" and "one Talent which is death to hide"
- 4) What is being referred to by the metaphor "his mild yoke" Explain briefly the same
- 5) Explain and comment on the last line of the poem? What kind of significance does it have to belief and real life?