

Paper Title: Autobiography

Course: BA (H) English

Sem. : VI

OBE Question bank

PART 1

1. Critically comment on Gandhi's relationship with his wife. (10)
2. Discuss the difference between atheism and pantheism with specific reference to Annie Besant's autobiography. (10)
3. Hunger and poverty are the constant companions of Wright's childhood in his autobiography *Black Boy*. Discuss. (10)
4. Dalit autobiographies are driven by the idea of dalit consciousness. Discuss with specific reference to *The Outcaste*. (10)
5. Writing an autobiography becomes a political act of assertion. Comment with specific references to *Black Boy* and *The Outcaste*. (10)
6. How does Annie Besant's idea of religion destabilize the established institution(s) of religion? (10)

PART 2

1. Rousseau frames his autobiography *Confessions* by utilizing the structure of a catholic confession. Discuss.

Also analyze, why confessions is used as a strategic framework within which the story of his life can unfold. (marks: 15)

2. Discuss how Rousseau's discussion on the effects of childhood experiences on adulthood, especially in terms of development of sexuality foreshadows the works of Freud. (marks: 10)

3. The making of the "subject" in Franklin's autobiography coincides with the making of the American dream. Discuss.

Also, critically analyze the very nature and extent of this imagination, i.e. the American Dream. (marks: 15)

4. Discuss the relationship between gender and genre vis-à-vis the writing of autobiography. (note: you may refer to Revathi and Binodini, both) (marks: 10)

5. Discuss the importance of establishing a sense of belongingness in the formation of identity, with reference to Revathi's the *Truth About Me*. (marks:10)

6. Discuss how Binodini's autobiography serves as a historical document of theatre and lives of its actresses in the 19th century Bengal. (marks: 10)