

B.A. 2ND SEMESTER (HONOURS) EXAMINATION, 2021

ENGLISH

Course ID: 20314

Course Code: AH/ENG/203/GE-2

(Nation, Culture and India)

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 40

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

Answer all the questions.

Unit-I

1. (a) Discuss briefly six distinct critiques of Indian secularism as mentioned by Amartya Sen in his essay “Secularism and Its Discontents”. 10

Or,

(b) Critically discuss the response that Amartya Sen gives on the ‘Favouritism’ critique against secularism in his essay “Secularism and Its Discontents”.

2. (a) What are the barriers to realise the actuality of nationalism in India? Elucidate the idea as you find in Tagore’s essay “Nationalism in India”. 10

Or,

(b) Briefly discuss the points of difference between Western and Indian civilization as mentioned by Tagore in his essay “Nationalism in India”.

3. (a) How does Sri Aurobindo explore the concept of spirituality to realise the Renaissance in India? 10

Or,

(b) ‘The evening of decline which followed the completion of the curve was prepared by three movements of retrogression’— Describe the ‘three movements’ as explained by Sri Aurobindo in the essay “Renaissance in India”.

Unit-II

4. Answer *any five* of the following questions:

5x2=10

- (a) What, according to Sri Aurobindo, created 'the harmony of the ancient Indian culture'?
- (b) What do the 'ideals of the Indian mind' include as mentioned in "Renaissance in India"?
- (c) What does Tagore suggest by 'higher instincts' in "Nationalism in India"?
- (d) Who and why, according to Tagore, would be the 'fittest to take their permanent place in the age that is lying before us'?
- (e) Why does Tagore consider nationalism a great menace?
- (f) What does Tagore say about the 'problem of race unity' in India and abroad?
- (g) 'Even in her hour of decline it was the one thing she could never lose' - What is referred to as 'the one thing' in "Renaissance in India"?
- (h) What is 'Renaissance' according to Sri Aurobindo?
- (i) 'I believe I have outgrown that teaching' - What teaching does Tagore refer to here?
- (j) Name two Bengali writers who, according to Sri Aurobindo, represent the Renaissance in India.

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