

B.A. 2nd Semester (Honours) Examination, 2022

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) Critically discuss Amartya Sen's response to the "Prior Identity" critique against secularism in his essay 'Secularism and Its Discontents'. **1x10=10**

Or

- (b) What arguments does Amartya Sen offer in response to the "Non-existence" critique against secularism in his essay 'Secularism and Its Discontents'?

- 2.(a) "There is only one history—the history of man". – Discuss briefly how Tagore presents his opinions about nationalism along this line in the essay 'Nationalism in India'. **1x10=10**

Or

- (b) "Our real problem in India is not political. It is social." – Comment critically.

- 3.(a) How does Sri Aurobindo portray Indian culture in 'The Renaissance in India'?

1x10=10

Or

- (b) Critically discuss the three phases of the Indian Renaissance as detailed in 'The Renaissance in India'.

P.T.O.

Unit-II

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

5x2=10

- (a) "That is certainly not a type of renaissance that is at all possible in India". – What kind of "renaissance" does Sri Aurobindo refer to here?
- (b) "The ideals that strive to take form in social institutions have two objects". – What are the "two objects" mentioned by Tagore in 'Nationalism in India'?
- (c) Briefly comment on Sri Aurobindo's observations on Bengal art in 'The Renaissance in India'.
- (d) "When our nationalists talk about ideals, they forget that the basis of nationalism is wanting". – Why does Tagore thus comment?
- (e) What according to Sri Aurobindo constitutes the "real key-note" of the Indian spirit?
- (f) "A parallelism exists between America and India". – What kind of parallelism does Rabindranath Tagore refer to in his essay 'Nationalism in India'?
- (g) What according to Sri Aurobindo "saved India always, at every critical moment of her destiny"?
- (h) Why does Tagore think that political freedom cannot ensure actual freedom?
- (i) Identify the first stage of India's greatness according to Sri Aurobindo.
- (j) How does Tagore look upon a "commercial civilization" in 'Nationalism in India'?

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