

M.A. 1st Semester Examination-2022-23

ENGLISH (PRACTICAL)

COURSE ID: 10365

COURSE CODE : ENG/105/IA

Course Title : Test on Writing Skills

Time : 2 Hours

Full Marks : 50

The figures in the right hand margin indicate full marks.

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

UNIT-I

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics (in about 800 words): 30×1=30

Literature, Culture, and Environment

Childhood in literature

The lessons that Corona Virus taught us

Role of fate in Shakespeare's plays

Literature and Digital Humanities.

(Turn Over)

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

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Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature, and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills, and the imparting of knowledge, judgment, and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of. Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in "The Republic" (his most important work on philosophy and political theory, written around 360 B.C.). In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less

able. He believed that education should be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, music, and art. Plato believed that talent and intelligence are not distributed genetically and thus are to be found in children born to all classes, although his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit, and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in education, the ultimate aim of which should be to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically, and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits, unlike Socrates' emphasis on questioning his listeners to bring out their ideas. He emphasized the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history, and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

During the Medieval period, the idea of Perennialism was first formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas in his work "De Magistro". Perennialism holds that one should teach those things deemed to be of everlasting importance to all people everywhere, namely principles and reasoning,

not just facts (which are apt to change over time), and that one should teach first about people, not machines or techniques. It was originally religious, and it was only much later that a theory of secular perennialism developed.

During the Renaissance, the French skeptic Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592) was one of the first to critically look at education. Unusually for his time, Montaigne was willing to question the conventional wisdom of the period, calling into question the whole edifice of the educational system, and the implicit assumption that university-educated philosophers were necessarily wiser than uneducated farm workers, for example.

- (a) What does Socrates and Aristotle differ in their approaches? 2
- (b) What may be the reasons behind considering philosophy a 'weak and woolly' field? 2
- (c) What is meant by the term 'Perennialism'? 2
- (d) Do you think Plato's beliefs about education democratic? 2
- (e) Why did Aquinas propose a model of education which did not lay much emphasis on facts? 2
- (f) Make a precis of the passage and suggest an appropriate title. 10