

B.A. Semester-II Examination, 2022-23**ENGLISH [Honours]**

Course ID : 20314 Course Code : AH/ENG/203/GE-2

Course Title : Nation, Culture and India

[NEW SYLLABUS]

Time : 2 Hours

Full Marks : 40

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.**Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.***Answer all the questions.**

1. a) Critically discuss Tagore's ideas of the nation and nationalism as presented in the essay 'Nationalism in India'. 10

OR

- b) "Let our civilization take its firm stand upon its basis of social cooperation and not upon economic exploitation and conflict."– Discuss critically how Tagore contrasts Indian and European civilisations along this line in the essay 'Nationalism in India'.

2. a) How does Sri Aurobindo define Indian civilisation in the essay 'The Issue: Is India Civilised?'. 10

OR

- b) Critically discuss how Sri Aurobindo contrasts Indian and European cultures in the essay 'The Issue: Is India Civilised?'.

3. a) Discuss how the essay 'Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Nation and its Outcastes' examines Tagore's ideas on caste and untouchability in the context of his writings on nationalism. 10

OR

- b) Comment critically on the alternative solution to India's problem of caste-based social exclusion as envisioned by Tagore, with reference to Shekhar Bandopadhyay's essay as prescribed in your syllabus.

4. Answer any **five** of the following questions: 5×2=10

- a) What according to Sri Aurobindo constitutes the "right terrestrial aim of man" and where does it lie?
- b) "India has had her own problem before her – it is the race problem."– What does Tagore imply here?

- c) What are the three successive stages of the "spiritual advance of humanity" as mentioned in Sri Aurobindo's essay 'The Issue: Is India Civilised'?
- d) "India's social system is built upon this conception."– Which "conception" is referred to here?
- e) How can India save herself from the "peril" of mere imitative Europeanisation according to Sri Aurobindo?
- f) What parallelism between India and America does Tagore refer to in his essay 'Nationalism in India'?
- g) What should be the yardsticks of judging a civilisation according to Sri Aurobindo?
- h) "Again we are confronted with the two alternatives".– Which "alternatives" does Tagore refer to?
- i) Who according to Tagore would be the "fittest to take their permanent place in the age that is lying before us"?
- j) Why does Tagore feel that "Englishmen can never truly understand India"?

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Answer all the questions.

UNIT-I

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

OR

- b) Critically analyse Amartya Sen's response to the "cultural" critique against secularism in his essay 'Secularism and Its Discontents'.
2. a) What constitute the barriers to realising the actuality of nationalism in India? Elucidate the idea after Tagore's essay 'Nationalism in India'. 10

10

OR

- b) Why does Tagore claim that India has never had a real sense of nationalism, and that nationalism has for years been at the root of India's troubles in his essay 'Nationalism in India'?
3. a) How according to Sri Aurobindo, would spirituality foster the Renaissance in India? 10

OR

- b) Explore the possibility of the unique fusion of ancient Indian spirituality and modernity as evoked by Sri Aurobindo in his essay 'Renaissance in India'.

UNIT-II

4. Answer any **five** of the following questions: $5 \times 2 = 10$
- 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 comprises Tagore's idea of a Nation?
- d) Why does Tagore observe that an automobile does not create freedom of movement?
- e) What does Tagore signify by "higher instincts" in 'Nationalism in India'?

- f) What does Sri Aurobindo observe about the second phase of the Renaissance in India?
- 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 Tagore's position on the "problem of race unity" in India and abroad?
- i) Comment briefly on Sri Aurobindo's take on Bengal art in 'The Renaissance in India'.
- j) "I believe I have outgrown that teaching". – Which teaching does Tagore refer to here?