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Your Roll No.

B.A. Prog. / I

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(T)

ENGLISH DISCIPLINE—Paper I

(The Individual and Society, An Anthology)

Time: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 100

(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.)

Note:— The maximum marks printed on the question paper are applicable for the students of SOL / NCWEB / Non-Formal Cell. These marks will, however, be scaled down proportionately in respect of the students of Regular Colleges, at the time of posting of awards for compilation of result.

Attempt all questions.

1. (A)

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow:

(a) Even the educated Brahmin who knows his exact position and how he has come by it, will not condescend to acknowledge the errors of his own superiority. At present, no one has the moral courage to do what only duty demands, and as

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long as this continues, one sect distrusting and degrading another sect, the condition of the Sudras will remain unaltered, and India will never advance in greatness or prosperity.

- (i) Identify the passage, name its author and explain the context. 5
- (ii) Why does the author think that 'the educated Brahmin' will not condescend to acknowledge the errors of his own superiority'? What does this comment suggest?
- (iii) Discuss how the author relates the 'greatness or prosperity' of India to the emancipation of the Sudras.

Or

(b) I thought you had ripped out all those caste things You came bridging that chasm that divides us Truly, friend I was really happy With the naïve devotion of Shabari I arranged the food on your plate

But the moment you looked at the plate, your face changed

With a smirk you said Oh My— Do you serve chutny koshimbir this way?
You still don't know how to serve food

Truly, you folk will never improve.

(i) Identify the poem and the poet and explain the context of these lines.

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(ii) What does the poet mean by 'the naïve devotion of Shabari'? Why does the speaker show such devotion to her friend?

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(iii) Discuss how the illusion of the speaker is shattered in the context of these lines.

(B)

Read the following lines and answer the questions that follow:

- (a) General, man is very useful
 He can fly and he can kill
 But he has one defect:
 He can think.
 - (i) Identify the poem and its poet, and explain the context.
 - (ii) Do you think the poet is trying to hint at a voice of resistance against the general by his men/soldiers?
 - (iii) When the poet says 'He can think', man's ability to think is defined as a 'defect'. Is it actually a defect? If not, what does it mean?

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(b) Terrified, the dog turned the other way— one of its legs had become useless. It had just about managed to drag itself a few steps in the other direction on three legs, when Jamadar Harnam Singh aimed and fired. The dog fell dead on the spot. Subedar Himmat Khan expressed regret, 'Tch tch the poor thing became a martyr!'

Jamadar Harnam Singh took the warm barrel of the gun in his hand and said, 'He died a dog's death.'

- (i) Name the story and its author, and explain the context.
- (ii) Who are Jamadar Harnam Singh and Subedar Himmat Khan? Why do they kill the dog? 7
- (iii) Discuss how the passage shows us the senselessness of violence and its effect on its victims.
- (a) Analyse the complex attitude of her family, particularly her father, towards Judith in Virginia Woolf's imaginative reconstruction in "Shakespeare's Sister".

Or

- (b) Do you think Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl" portrays the plight of a teenage girl coming of age who is surrounded by a range of advice that are directed towards shaping an identity influenced by a patriarchal society?
- 3. (a) Comment on the significance of the title of Maya Angelou's poem "Still I Rise". 20

Or

(b) In his confession in Nadine Gordimer's story "Jump", the protagonist unconsciously reveals

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the reason why he is both 'hero' and 'criminal'. Do you see the reason why?

4. (a) Discuss the significance of Bibhas Sen's story "Zero-Sum Game".

Or

(b) "Indian Movie, New Jersey" presents the complexities Indian immigrants experience in the U.S.A.Discuss.

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