

This question paper contains 7 printed pages]

Your Roll No.

4555

B.A. (Prog.)/I

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ENGLISH DISCIPLINE—Paper I

(The Individual and Society, An Anthology)

(Admissions of 2005/2006 and onwards in respect of
students of Regular Colleges/NCWEB)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

(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 the regular colleges (Cat. A). These marks will, however, be scaled up proportionately in respect of the students of NCWEB at the time of posting of awards for compilation of result.

Attempt *All* questions.

1. (A) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :
 - (a) The highest rights, the highest privileges and gifts, and everything that would make the life of a Brahmin

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easy, smooth going and happy—everything that would conserve or flatter their self-pride,—were specially inculcated and enjoined, whereas the **Sudras** and **Atisudras** were regarded with supreme hatred and contempt, and the commonest rights of humanity were denied them.

- (i) Name the author and the text, and explain the context of these lines. 5
- (ii) What does the author imply while talking about 'the highest rights, the highest privileges and gifts' preserved for the Brahmins ? 5
- (iii) Why were the **Sudras** and **Atisudras** denied 'the commonest rights of humanity' ? 5

Or

(b) Dear friend—You have not discarded your tradition

Its roots go deep in your mind

And that's true, true, true

Friend—There's yoghurt on the last course of rice

Today the arrangement of food on your plate was not
properly ordered

Are you going to tell me what mistakes I made ?

Are you going to tell me my mistakes ?

(i) Name the poem and the poet, and explain
the context of these lines. 5

(ii) Explain what 'tradition' is referred to in these
lines ? 5

(iii) Explain the significance of 'you' and 'I' in
the last two lines. 5

(B) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

(a) Pyarimohan took the exercise-book and started to read the little girl's compositions out in a loud voice. Hearing this, Uma clasped the earth in a still tighter embrace, while the other three little girls were beside themselves with laughter.

After that day, Uma never got back her exercise-book. Pyarimohan had an exercise-book too, filled with barded essays expounding his elaborate theories. But there were no benefactor of humankind to seize *that* book and destroy it.

(i) Name the author and the story, and explain the context of these lines. 5

(ii) Comment on the significance of Uma's exercise-book'. 5

- (iii) What does the author imply while referring to 'barbed essays' and 'benefactor of humankind' ?

5

Or

- (b) When I was eleven, after a beating

I took and smashed the ruler to kindling.

Fingering the splinters I could not believe.

How could this rod prove weaker than me ?

It was not that I was never again beaten

But in destroying that stick that had measured my pain

The next day I was an adolescent, not a child.

- (i) Name the poem and the poet, and explain

the context of these lines.

5

- (ii) Who is the 'I' here ? What is the significance of her smashing 'the ruler' ? 5
- (iii) Comment on the implication of 'that stick that had measured my pain'. 5
2. (a) Analyse the ways in which race, class and gender affect the balance of power between the two people in Roger Mais's story "Blackout". 15

Or

- (b) Critically comment on the various episodes of silence in Wole Soyinka's poem "Telephone Conversation".
3. (a) Is Siegfried Sassoon's poem "Return from the Somme" a protest against war ? 15

Or

- (b) Comment on the significance of the title of Edna St Vincent Millay's poem "Conscientious Objector".

4. (a) Discuss Bibhas Sen's story "Zero-Sum Game" as a satire on modern rulers and the games they play with common people. 15

Or

- (b) Discuss Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's "Indian Movie, New Jersey" as a poem that 'explores issues of fantasy and nostalgia along with the challenges of strained inter-racial experiences'.